





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2011 with funding from
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

<http://www.archive.org/details/industrialeditio00rock>



1st Section
1906

1907 or 1908 edition Part 342

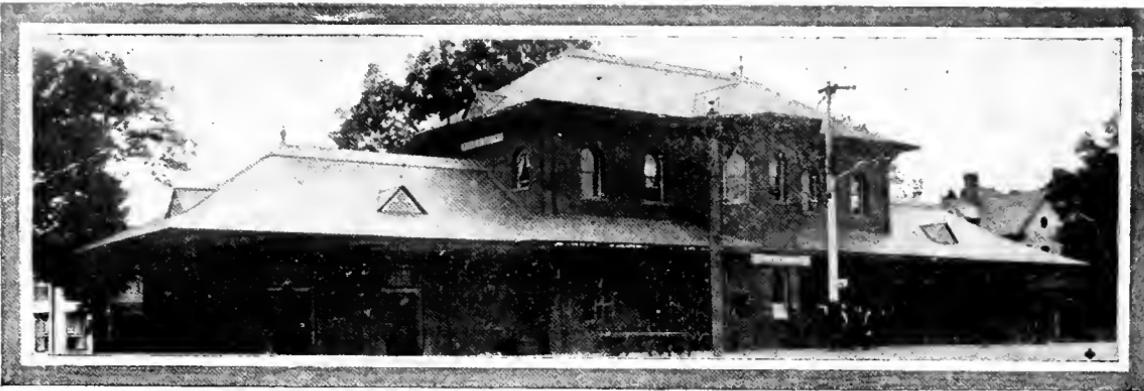
ROCKY MOUNT

One of the Best,
Most Progressive
and Fastest Growing
Cities in N. Carolina.



Evidences of this fact are presented in this Industrial Edition of
THE ROCKY MOUNT RECORD



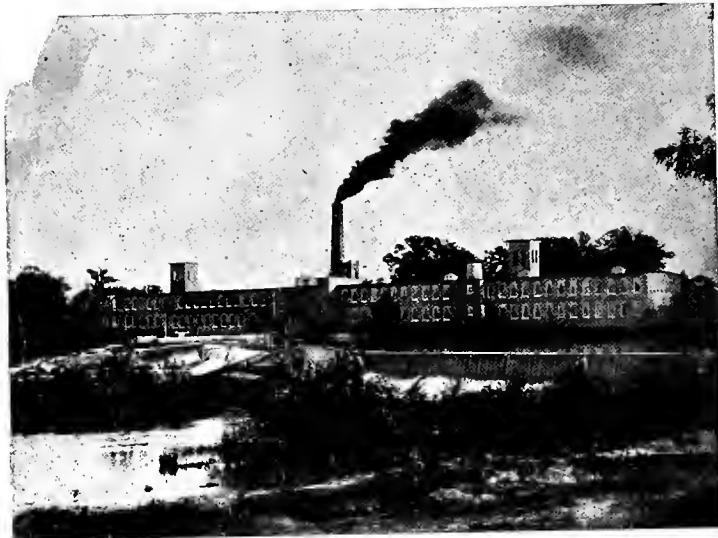


New Passenger Depot of A. C. L., one of the costliest and handsomest on the line of that big system.

ROCKY MOUNT.

THE PEER OF ANY CITY IN THE GOOD OLD NORTH STATE IN THE RAPIDITY OF ITS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

One all powerful material argument to show the tremendous strides that Rocky Mount has made along industrial, business and property lines in the last few years is a glance at the tax books. In 1898 the assessed valuation of city property was seven hundred and fifty-nine thousand, one hundred and forty-three dollars and twenty two cents. In 1905 this valuation had increased to one million, nine hundred and five thousand, three hundred and eighty-eight dollars, and in 1906 the tax valuation of town property will have increased to two and one quarter million dollars. This does not include property outside of the corporate limits. The suburbs of Rocky Mount have increased in full proportion in comparison to the town property. The increase at South Rocky Mount, which is not in the corporate limits, will alone amount to a quarter of a million dollars.



Rocky Mount Cotton Mills. Employing more than three hundred workers and being nearly the whole support of a village of one thousand persons.

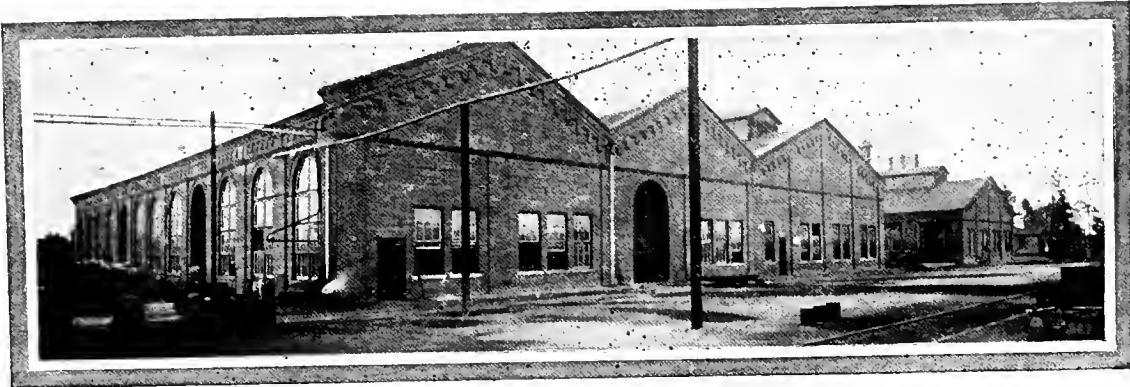


Scene just below the Falls. A picturesque place, near where Rocky Mount first began to build. The Rocky Mount Cotton Mills gets its motive power from this embankment of water.

Another infallible barometer in showing a city's growth is its postoffice receipts. In 1899 the postoffice receipts of Rocky Mount were slightly over \$5,000. The fiscal year ending March 1, 1906, showed receipts of \$12,308.18. Free delivery was ordered to become effective November 1, 1906.

Another indication of a city's prosperity is the condition of its banks. In 1901 the banks of Rocky Mount showed deposits of \$255,152.88. In 1906 the deposits had grown to the handsome figure of \$635,040.66. In 1901 the capital and surplus was \$62,000. In 1906 this had grown to \$206,500.

In 1900 the population of Rocky Mount was 2,900. In 1906 an actual census showed a few souls over 8,000.



Showing four buildings of the Railroad Shops at South Rocky Mount.

Location, Brief Historical Sketch, Soil and Climate.

Mount is a city of eight thousand inhabitants, situated on the main line of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, 125 miles from each of the following places: Richmond, Norfolk and Washington, and sixty miles east of the State Capital, and about three hours ride from Norfolk and Wilmington. It is the terminus of the Branch of the Plymouth and Norfolk & Carolina Railroad, and of the North and South-bound trains of the Atlantic Coast Line. Circling around to the West and North at a distance of about one mile from the center of the Tar River. It lies in the counties of Nash and Edgecombe. To the Northwest of the town and at Mount Mills the smooth current of the Tar River, passing over giant rocks that cover the bed of the river, forms a series of beautiful waterfalls. These are the "Falls of the Tar." Rising abruptly from the North bank of the river at this point and then falling away gradually into an even level country are a series of rocky hills which the town gets its name.

Mount of to-day is essentially a new one, not of the boorish character, but ~~the product of a rapid~~.



Scene on the Railroad Yards at South Rocky Mount showing thousands of car wheels.

pact and solid growth. In the days before the war, that is, about 1857, the only evidences of civilization where town now is, was the old Gray Hotel, now known as the Bulluck House, on Washington Street, the Gray and cottages and a simple one story building near the present Church Street, occupied by one Mrs. Piety Gay; these buildings scattered around in the scrubby woods that then covered the town site there was the old W. red store near the present town market and that of James H. Chathman just in the rear of it.

The embryo town, following the "even tenor of its way" struggled on through the noise and confusion days and those of reconstruction until 1867, when in the minds of its then citizens who numbered no fifty, had attained to such dignity and importance as to justify its incorporation as a separate municipality. T. Gay elected or appointed in this year, was the town's first Mayor, and from then its history may be begun. For many years following, its career differed in no way from that of its sister towns. The barely perceptible increase of population. In 1890 the town's population had reached 821. Ten years later, 1900, so rapid had become its growth under the stimulus of the new spirit and enterprise that had taken hold of it, that its population had increased to 2,915, and from that time to the present it has moved along, increasing its population and expanding its borders with the strides of a giant panoplied in strength and confidence number of people now living in the town and its immediate suburbs exceed eight thousand. This

Edgecombe



Jno C. Stout, architect and builder.

A. C. L. RELIEF DEPARTMENT HOSPITAL.

story of the birth and early growth of a town, in many respects the most wonderful and extraordinary in North Carolina.

The town lies in the midst of the finest agricultural country in the Eastern part of the State. It was for many years, and still is, a great market for the cotton raised in the country around. It is now, under somewhat changed conditions, the principal market for the product of the golden tobacco belt. Wheat, corn, oats, peanuts and grasses grow readily and in great abundance. The soil is well suited to the successful growth of every North Carolina crop. Truck farming, originally almost unknown and of doubtful expediency, is growing greater in extent each year, as the perfect adaptability of the soil for that kind of a crop becomes better known. Stock and dairy farms dot the



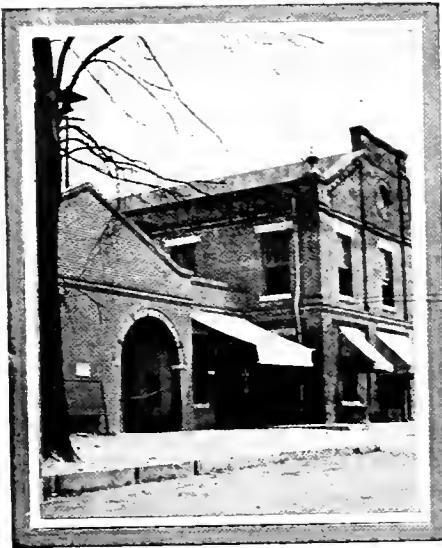
Racing Team 1906. Names of members reading from left to right:

Smithson. Goodknight. Rawls. Williford H., Moore. Williford, W. Jenkins. Thurman. Brooks. Battle.
2nd Slack Catcher. 2nd Jump. Nozzleman. Coupling Breaker. 1st Slack Catcher. Hydrant Buttman. Driver. Captain. Hydrantman Asst. Captain,

country near the town. On these farms can be found the finest of Jerseys and other blooded cattle. The town is not only well supplied with milk and butter of unexcelled quality from these farms, but large shipments of butter are made to other places.

The town got its first real "start in life" from the country around it, and in all its subsequent prosperity due credit has been given this very potent factor. The farms lie level and have a good clay subsoil. Careful and intelligent cultivation is apparent on most of them. Of the country homes many of them are a credit to any community and to the architectural taste of the owners. The general run of farm houses are neatly built and well kept.

Edgecombe side



Municipal Buildings, Containing Fire Department, City Market, Mayor's Court Room and Office, City Clerk's Office and Superintendent of Public Works Office.



Scene Along Main Street.

As A Railroad Town.

Rocky Mount easily takes first place among the great railroad centers of the State. No less than seventy trains come in and depart from the town every day of the year. The engines and crews of all the Coast Line trains are changed here. The freight trains of the Atlantic Coast Line are made up here, that is, cars coming in from different points are classified and put in solid trains. Some idea of the amount of business done by the local freight department is conveyed by the statement that frequently no less than 2,000 cars of freight are handled in one day.

1906 Perhaps

At South Rocky Mount are the great repair shops of the Coast Line System. The number of machinists, skilled workmen and other employees number about 750, and the monthly pay roll amounts to \$70,000.00. Here, too, is the transfer department of the Atlantic Coast Line, Southern and Norfolk & Carolina Railroads. In addition to the shops, the railroad has in and near there yards for the shifting and placing of cars, excelled nowhere in the United States in size and capacity except by those at Altoona, Pa. The railroad company owns at this place an electric light system for lighting its extensive yards. The Atlantic Coast Line restaurant, at South Rocky Mount, and the several office buildings are all large, roomy and handsomely built. The Atlantic Coast Line Relief Department Hospital at this place reflects great credit on the originators of the scheme. Its cost in construction and equipment was about \$35,000.00. The building itself is a large and very handsome one. In equipments and method of treatment the most advanced ideas prevail. As its name indicates, it was designed by its founders for the treatment of the injured and sick employees of the Atlantic Coast Line who are members of its Relief Department. The passenger depot building in Rocky Mount, including offices, is a magnificent one, constructed after the most approved and modern ideas, and affords in itself another splendid evidence of the modern and progressive spirit that seems to animate every part of the great railroad system to which it belongs. Plans have been formulated for the erection of a costly and capacious freight depot in keeping with the other buildings of the railroad at Rocky Mount.

School Facilities.

Rocky Mount stands unequalled in the facilities it offers for the education of its children. Prior to 1902 the town had no public school, but an act was passed by the legislature defining a graded school district that embraced all of the town and a little of the adjoining territory. A bond issue was authorized to pay the cost of buildings and equipments. A magnificent brick building, modernly built and equipped, was erected. The first year the attendance numbered on an average only 350 pupils, and twelve teachers were employed. In the school year just closed there were nineteen teachers and an average attendance of about 650 pupils. So rapidly indeed has become the growth of the school population and the urgent need for enlarged facilities that the Board of Graded School Trustees have purchased the splendid vacant lot on the corner of Marygold and Raleigh Streets and on this lot in the coming year will be erected Rocky Mount East Side Graded School. The building and equipments will be in all respects in keeping with the high demands of the public for building and excellent, modern opportunities for the education of their children. It is confidently expected that the Fall term of 1907 of the Rocky Mount Graded School will open with an attendance of more than 1,000 pupils. This has reference only to the white school. The interests of the colored children has been well cared for by the tax paying public as well as by the efficient and public spirited Board of Graded School Trustees.

Nothing occupies quite so secure a place in the estimation and esteem of the citizens of Rocky Mount as their

Edgarville Side



MASONIC TEMPLE BUILDING

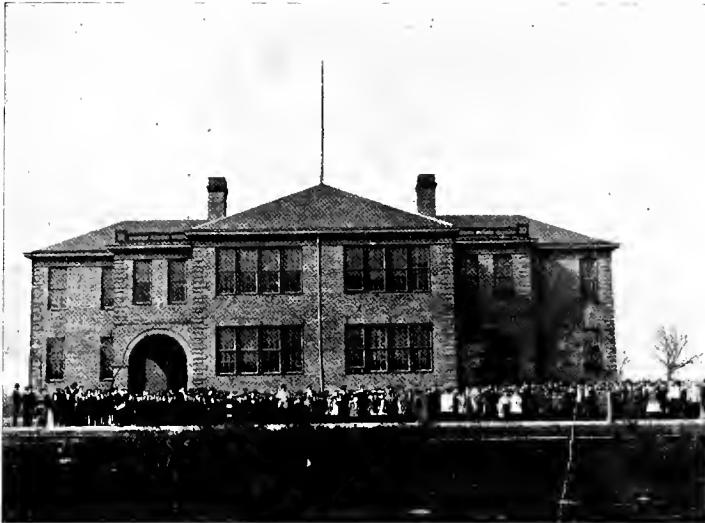
Containing Lodge Rooms, Opera House, Banquet Hall, Postoffice,
Edward's Book Store, Epstein's Clothing Store.



MASONIC TEMPLE OPERA HOUSE.

Built Along Modern Lines and One of the Handsomest in the State.

Graded School. While stress is laid upon the acquirements of a practical education and due attention is paid to the intellectual and social refinements of life, still the formation of character is declared to be the supreme end of true education. The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, whose interest is indissolubly connected with that of the town, have always manifested an interest in its welfare and progress, and are cordial friends of the town's great educational institution. They are regular and liberal contributors towards its support, and their employees are among its strongest friends and liberal patrons. Prof. W. V. Boyle, on the founding of the Graded School, was elected Superintendent, which position he still holds. No school in the State has a better or more efficient one.



ROCKY MOUNT GRADED SCHOOL.

Building on West Side. A Site has been Bought and Another Handsome and Modern
Graded School Building will be Erected on the East Side of the City.



Nash
NEW METHODIST CHURCH.

Nearly All Denominations Are Getting Ready to Erect New
Edifices of Worship

Public Works.

Another feature of the new Rocky Mount is its water, sewerage and electric light system. The first was completed in the Spring of 1900, and the second installed two years later. The source of water supply is Stony Creek, a clear stream two miles from town. The builders of the water system were anxious to get pure water and an abundance of it, and following that idea made extensive surveys before deciding upon any one course. The system

Nash



J. C. Stout, Architect and Builder.

MR. J. C. BRASWELL'S RESIDENCE.

itself in all respects is among the best in the State. Every drop of water coming to the town is thoroughly filtered at the pumping station, and is clear as crystal, the original contract calling for the elimination of at least 95 per cent of the impurities, matters in suspension, etc. Tests made by the State Chemist show well for its hygienic value.



J. C. Stout, Architect and Builder.

MR. DAN CUTHRELL'S RESIDENCE.

The electric lighting system of Rocky Mount, extending over the entire business and residential section, as the statements will show, is a large one and well patronized by the people of the town who, being thoroughly progressive and conscious of the superlative value of a good thing when they see it, are friendly to it and in fact to all the

town's public works and liberal in their patronage. The ever expanding, enlarging and developing population, in all the years since their installation and construction, have called for constant increase in the capacity of the city's electric light, sewer and water systems. Notwithstanding a modest bonded indebtedness, the town of Rocky Mount, for one of its size, is rich in material assets. It is conservatively estimated that the value of its public works, together with its market house, is more than \$200,000.

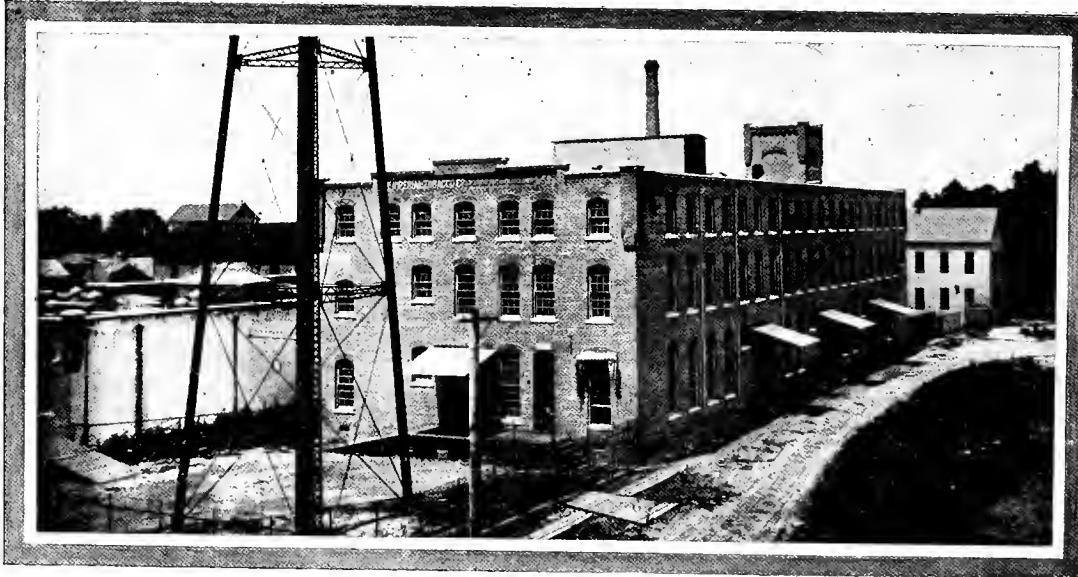
Rocky Mount Fire Company.

Occupying a prominent place among the city's institutions, and secure in the esteem of all its citizens, is the Rocky Mount Fire Company. The white company has thirty members, with one engine and two hose wagons, one of them built especially for racing purposes. There are twenty-five members of the colored Hook and Ladder Company. The achievements of the Rocky Mount Fire Department in the way of averting destruction of property, and heroism and skill of its members while engaged in active warfare with devouring elements, has been equalled by few and surpassed by none other in North Carolina. Nor is it alone in this particular arena that they have established their claims to distinction. In the State contest, on two occasions, the engine and hose wagon have won honors and prize money. The present fire chief, Mr. J. H. Cuthrell, takes an especial interest in the welfare and discipline of the department. It is safe to say that no other department in North Carolina has a more skilful or better rounded chief than he.

Chamber of Commerce.

Rocky Mount's Chamber of Commerce was organized in the Fall of 1904 by several of the town's leading business spirits who recognized the need of such an organization in exploiting the town's and surrounding country's varied advantages. Sixty-one of Rocky Mount's prominent and progressive business men constitute the present membership. From the time of its organization to the present, it has been assiduous in promoting the interests of the city, advertising the numerous advantages it offers to investors of almost every class and generally in an active and intelligent way pressing the welfare of the town and discovering new and profitable fields to investors and home seekers. While the organization justly lays claim to having successfully aided in the promotion of several industrial and commercial enterprises, it points to the Rocky Mount Hosiery Mills as one distinct triumph achieved by its efforts. A leaflet or booklet setting out the advantages of the town and country around, it has had distributed among the agents of all the southern railroad systems. Correspondence with outside capital seeking investment and with business interests in search of new fields of endeavor and enterprise has also made a prominent and bright chapter in its history. In ascribing credit to whom it justly belongs, the names of Mr. Jas. C. Braswell, the

nash



IMPERIAL TOBACCO COMPANY'S BUILDING.

Considered Absolutely Fire Proof and Costing Nearly \$100,000.

first president, and of Mr. R. B. Davis, Jr., the present president of the Chamber of Commerce, should not pass unmentioned. The Board of Directors were fortunate in their selection of Mr. Davis for the responsible position he holds. There is no happier combination of those qualities necessary in one filling such an office than he possesses. All correspondence addressed to him in regard to information desired about the town will receive his prompt attention.

Nash



RESIDENCE OF DR. W. H. WHITEHEAD.

E. Escarbe



RESIDENCE OF DR. G. L. WIMBERLEY.

The Rocky Mount Cotton Mills.

The largest concern in or near Rocky Mount, except the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, and so prominent in the business life of the community as to be regarded as one of the City's public and permanent institutions, is the Rocky Mount Cotton Mills, situated at the beautiful Falls of the Tar River. The Mills owned by this company are really three in number, but are joined together and so constitute one splendid whole. They contain 40,000 spindles and make nothing but cotton yarns. The location is very picturesque and valuable as well as historic, being the site of the first cotton mill in North Carolina. The first mill was of stone walls, built in 1818, and was burned in 1863 by the Union forces as a war measure. After the war it was rebuilt and burned down again in 1871 and rebuilt immediately. The water power is unsurpassed. The Company is doing a great business and stand foremost among the Mills of the South. It is owned and managed by native North Carolinians. The President, Mr. R. H. Ricks, is one of the best, most successful, and is the wealthiest man in this section. Mr. T. H. Battle is the treasurer and manager.

Rocky Mount Homestead and Loan Association.

For the time it has been in existence no one institution or enterprise established or undertaken in Rocky Mount has contributed so greatly to the town's enlargement and material welfare as the Rocky Mount Homestead and Loan Association. It was incorporated and organized March 1st, 1902, with R. H. Ricks as first president and F. P. Spruill secretary and treasurer. Subsequently on the retirement of Mr. Ricks, Mr. T. H. Battle was elected president. Its growth has been nothing less than marvelous. More than seventy-five of the handsome new dwellings and business houses in town owe their existence to it. It is managed by a president and secretary with a board of nine directors. Thirteen hundred shares of stock are outstanding at the present, and it opened books for the beginning of its ninth series August 1st, 1906. The achievements of the concern as a public benefactor is in a large measure shown in the fact that its income from stock-holders has been doubled in the last year, that it is thoroughly self sustaining and yields a handsome profit on the investment to its stock-holders. The experimental stage of the institution has long since passed and its success is assured. The fact that stock-holders in the Rocky Mount Homestead and Loan Association are so well paid on their investment has disposed of the last objection that some people have to making loans in organizations of this character. Its claim to afford the means of home building on easy terms of payment with a minimum of expense and interest to the borrower passes unchallenged.

The Town Government.

For the purpose of its government the town of Rocky Mount is divided into five wards. The governing body consists of a Mayor, who is elected by the popular vote and holds office for the term of one year, and a Board of Commissioners, two from each ward, except the fifth ward, that has one, who hold office for the term of two years, elected in alternate years. The government is always indicative of the character of the governed. The application of this rule speaks well for the citizenship of the town. Its Board of Commissioners have uniformly been selected from among the citizens of the town who have demonstrated by their success in the management of their own affairs that they may be safely relied upon to conduct those of the town as well as they have their own. This Board of Commissioners, who serve the best interests of the town without compensation, are inspired in the faithful discharge of their public duties by none other than patriotic considerations. The good effect of all this is manifest in the splendid municipal government. It is conceded to be conducted upon a high plane. No small or selfish reasons are allowed to weigh against the larger and broader interests of the town. Responding to the high demands of its government the morale of its police force is unexcelled by that of any in the State. The law is regarded with that deference and veneration indicating that anything like lawlessness will meet with no tolerance or favor at any time from the overwhelming majority of the citizens. The City's government has always readily responded to whatever of enterprize there was among its citizens and has never failed to give both encouragement and support to whatever

Nash



RESIDENCE OF MR. R. L. HUFFINES

Nash



RESIDENCE OF MR. L. F. TILLERY

tended to the moral, intellectual and financial upbuilding of the town. The Town Commissioners, presided over by the Mayor, meet twice each month in the spacious Mayor's office in the Municipal Building. Adjoining it on the same floor is the handsomely fitted up offices of the City Clerk and the Superintendent of Public Works. The ground floor of this building is taken by the City Market and the Fire Department.

Churches.

The number of churches and membership and character of buildings is indicative always of the moral and religious character of the people who live in the community surrounding them. The character of the people of Rocky Mount in these respects is placed in a favorable light when judged by the standards thus afforded. All of the leading southern religious denominations are well represented in the city, not only in members but in the very high character of their membership. The denominations represented here are the Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, Missionary Baptist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Christian and Primitive Baptist. The last named was largely the pioneer in a religious way, both at Rocky Mount and in the country around it. The Falls Church, situated near the Tar River, about one mile from the town, links its history with that of the birth of Rocky Mount

Nash

176 C. 1



Jno. C. Stout, Architect and Builder
RESIDENCE OF DR. C. F. SMITHSON



Jno. C. Stout, Architect and Builder
RESIDENCE OF MR. H. M. AVENT

itself. It maintains here the very highest standard of membership that has acquired for that denomination in other parts of the country a distinction both unique and peculiar.

The new Methodist Episcopal Church, together with the parsonage, costing approximately \$25,000.00, at the corner of Sunset Avenue and Church Street, completed in the Fall of 1905, is a veritable gem viewed either as a conveniently arranged or an architectural production. The Episcopal membership and that of the Presbyterian have also begun to raise funds for the erection of a magnificent new church building, respectively, on their lots in Rocky Mount. Judging by the spirit that is abroad among the church belonging and church going people of the town, it is evident that within the next very few years every one of the religious denominations represented will have houses of worship in every way creditable to themselves and to the town. The people of Rocky Mount are church going, thus giving to the people of the world the assurance of what is the real public character.

In this connection it is just to say that no town in North Carolina has ministers of more consecrated character or of greater ability than those who minister to the people here. So conspicuous is this fact that it has become a matter of frequent comment among those of our visitors who have taken interest to gauge the real value and intelligence of the ministers sent here by the various church organizations.

nash



Jno. C. Stout, Architect and Builder
RESIDENCE OF MR. E. H. CREWS

nash



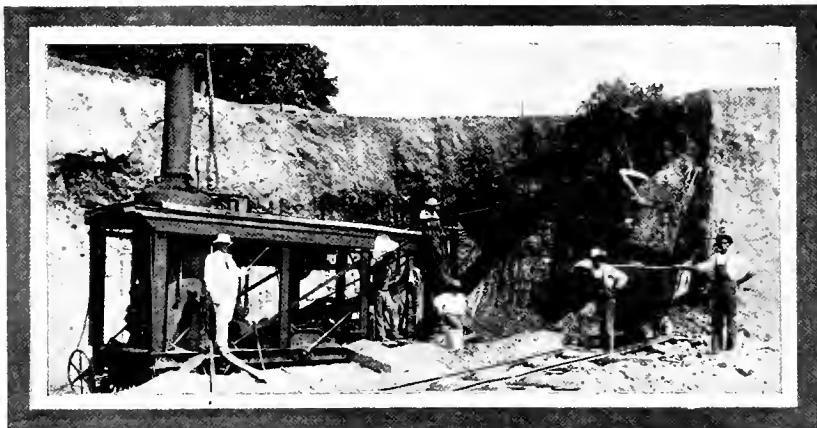
Jno. C. Stout, Architect and Builder
RESIDENCE OF MR. E. W. SMITH

Manufacturing Interests.

By almost whatever standard judged, Rocky Mount is the equal of any, the peer of all, and unexcelled by none. The spirit of enterprise and progress in all material ways that has animated the town has found numerous expressions in industrial and manufacturing enterprises. Every one of these enterprises are first class of their kind. Many of them are large, most of them new, and all in full operation at a fair profit. The results of these enterprises, together with the town's facilities and advantages, coupled with the spirit of a people that halts at nothing short of complete success, the welcome, aid and appreciation given to every worthy undertaking, makes Rocky Mount one of the best locations for the establishing of any enterprise that by possibility may be planted or flourish in the South. While we are only as yet upon the threshold of industrial and manufacturing achievement, the following can be pointed out as some of the results of the past few years: The Atlantic Coast Line Construction and Repair Shops (one of the largest in the country). One of the largest Cotton Mills in the State; the American Tobacco Company's Stemmery and Prizery; the Imperial Tobacco Company's Stemmery and Prizery; four other Tobacco Stemmeries and Prizeries; one Manufacturer of Smoking Tobacco; three Brick Manufactories; one Press Brick Manufactory; three Planing Mills; two Sash, Door and Blind Factories; three Saw Mills; one Foundry; two Machine Shops; one Buggy Manufactory; two Wagon and Cart Manufactories; two Cotton Seed Oil Mills; two Ice Factories; large Knitting Mill.



nash
COUNTRY HOME OF MR. W. E. JEFFREYS.

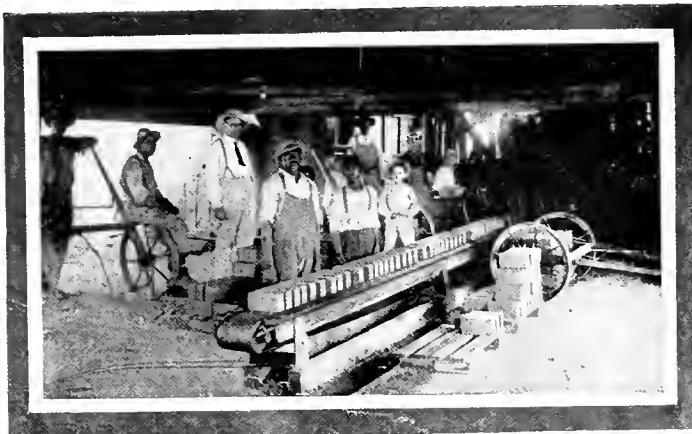


nash
Steam Shovel at Jeffreys-Ricks Clay Works

Jeffreys-Ricks Clay Works

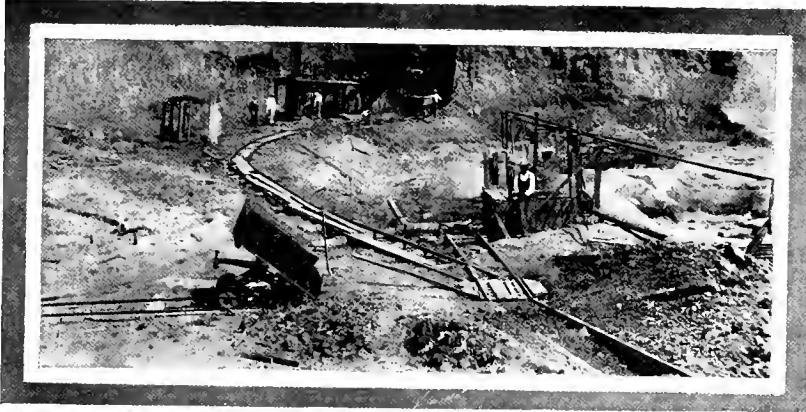
The Jeffreys-Ricks Clay Works, located about three miles from Rocky Mount, is one of the very best equipped brick manufacturing plants to be found anywhere. Mr. W. E. Jeffreys and Mr. R. H. Ricks, of whom a sketch of each appears elsewhere, are the owners, Mr. Jeffreys having entire charge of the executive work of the plant. The plant was started in 1902, since which time it has been constantly at work supplying brick for practically all of the many buildings which have been erected in Rocky Mount, besides large shipments elsewhere. For instance, the City of Durham is partly paved with brick from this plant. The plant is located in one of the finest fields of clay in the South, the clay being of the very finest quality and covering an area of over sixty acres and being thirty-two feet deep. All machinery is of the most modern kind, this and all buildings being arranged in such manner as not only to give the most perfect work, but to turn out the finished product at the most economical price, owing to nearly everything being handled entirely by machinery. It is quite interesting to watch the work of this plant. A steam shovel, which appears almost human in the nicety of its mechanism, digs out huge chunks of fine clay and deposits it on a truck situated on a railway track alongside. Upon the instant of a signal being given this is hauled

H. D.



Brick being made at the rate of 6,000 per hour.

by machinery to the machines, which properly mixes and grinds the clay. The clay then goes out in a solid compact formation and is conveyed by a continuous running belt to the cutting machine. This machine cuts 10 bricks at each revolution, turning them out at the rate of over one hundred per minute. The conveyer belt carries the brick from the cutting machine to the trucks, where they are stacked and carried off to the dry yard. Without rehandling they are carried from the yard to the dry kilns, where they are burned. The dry kilns are situated along a track and a plank is run right from a car inside the dry kiln, where, by the use of wheel barrows, the car is filled with brick in an incredibly short time. From here the cars are taken on the track which has direct connection with the Atlantic Coast Line main line. All of these arrangements allows the firm to make quick shipments of orders to any desired point.



CLAY PIT

Showing part of a 60 acre, 32 feet deep, field of fine clay at Jeffreys-Ricks Clay Works.

They are just completing a steam drying plant which will allow them to run in all kinds of weather, even in the severest winter months, thereby enabling them to fill all their contracts regardless of the weather conditions. They will soon put in machinery for the manufacturing of tile. This plant now has a capacity of 60,000 brick in ten working hours. They manufacture paving, press and building brick. Mr. W. E. Jeffreys is manager, and like all the work which receives the attention of his fine executive talents, it is done in a thorough and systematic manner.



MR. E. EPSTEIN.



Interior View of E. Epstein's Gents' Furnishing Store

The above picture shows an interior view of Mr. E. Epstein's Gents' Furnishing Store, one of the handsomest to be found in any city in the State, and is located in the large three story Masonic Temple building, next to the Postoffice.

Mr. Epstein came to Rocky Mount in March, 1905, having been previously located at Goldsboro as a member of the firm of Epstein Bros. Having the foresight to realize that Rocky Mount had a tremendous future, he sold out his interest to his brother and cast his lot in the thriving embryo city of Rocky Mount. He came here with the highest of recommendations from his old home, and by his square dealing, courteous demeanor, and carrying a fine and full line of goods, he has gained a large trade and the confidence of the public and made many friends. He conducts a strictly one price store, and makes no deviation from this rule. Among his goods will be found the finest lines made by manufacturers of high reputation.

Edgecombe



Interior View of Five Points Drug Store.

The above picture gives an interior view of Five Points Drug Store, one of the very handsomest in the State. Messrs. W. A. May and Richard Gorham are the proprietors. Both are licensed Pharmacists with thorough knowledge and experience in the drug business. Their stock is as large and varied as can be found in any modern drug store. Their innovation fountain is a marvel of beauty and serves drinks to a large patronage. The store is located on Washington, Tarboro and Rose Streets and is one of five points at that section, hence its name. Anything usually found in an up-to-date drug store can be found at this almost palace of a drug store.



J. T. BRANCH.



Interior view Branch & Thurman Plumbing Co's Show Room



J. W. THURMAN.

BRANCH & THURMAN.

This firm is composed of Messrs. J. T. Branch and J. W. Thurman. They came to Rocky Mount in March, 1902, since which time they have gained the confidence of the public by the excellency of their work and always fulfilling their contracts to the satisfaction of their customers. Both members of the firm know the practical part of plumbing work thoroughly, and no contract is too big for them to handle. They have nicely fitted up show room and offices at 149 Main Street, and they carry a fine and complete stock of plumbing equipment. Nearly all the work in their line in Rocky Mount has been done by them, and they have handled a great number of large contracts in other cities.

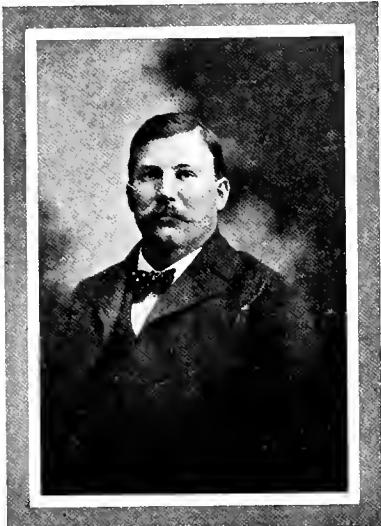


View of Rocky Mount Sash and Blind Co. Plant.

RCGKY MOUNT SASH AND BLIND CO.

This company was incorporated in 1899. Its real success was inaugurated when Mr. George Greene accepted the management in 1891, since which time it has turned out a large amount of business and shown a steady profit each year. The work turned out by this plant is of an unusually high grade. Some of the finest inside work in the very handsomest residences in Rocky Mount was manufactured entirely by this company. Practically all of the inside wood work of the buildings in Rocky Mount was done by them, and a large number of handsome buildings all over Eastern Carolina is fitted with its inside work by this plant. Mr. Greene, the manager, probably has no superior in the South, and few equals in his thorough understanding of the work. He has been in the business of

lumber manufacturing in nearly all its branches for the past twenty-five years and he allows no work to go out unless it is high class. This plant manufactures Sash, Doors, Blinds, Mantels, Turned Work, Mouldings, and can make any thing desired in a building to be made of wood. They also carry a full line of glass, which they can furnish in any size.



MR. GEORGE GREENE, Manager.



A Historical Place Belonging to Rocky Mount Mills and Occupied
by Mr. F. C. Ferguson, Superintendent and one of the
City's Largest Real Estate Owners.



RESIDENCE OF MR. W. S. WILKINSON.

No. 7362.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

—OF—

Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

The First National Bank wishes to bring to your attention the special advantages of depositing your money in this institution. Our customers have the benefit of our bank being directly under Government Supervision.

We are required to make five sworn statements of our condition yearly.

We are examined twice a year by an expert National Bank Examiner appointed by the U. S. Government. Our books are inspected by our directors and every effort is made to conduct this institution upon sound, safe and progressive methods.

Our capital stock is \$25,000.00; the additional liabilities of our share holders is \$25,000.00; our surplus is \$2,000.00; making \$52,000.00 subject to loss before the deposits of the bank would be endangered.

We carry abundant fire insurance and insure against burglary.

Our officers are fully bonded, being an extra safeguard to their faithfulness.

Since the organization of this institution it has not sustained a single loss.

The above statements should convince you that the failure of this bank is almost impossible.

Under these conditions we ask your patronage, assuring you it will be appreciated and promise every accommodation consistent with the safe principles upon which our institution is conducted.

Respectfully,
PAUL R. CAPELLE,
CASHIER.



ROCKY MOUNT HOMESTEAD AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

OFFICERS:

T. H. BATTLE, President
A. P. THORPE Vice President.
F. P. SPRUILL, Secretary & Treasurer.
L. V. BASSETT, Attorney.

|||
T. H. BATTLE,
J. M. DONLIN,
E. G. MUSE.

DIRECTORS:

A. P. THORPE. L. WACKSMUTH.
R. B. DAVIS, Jr. M. OPPENHEIMER.
W. L. GROOM. W. F. JAMES

This Association offers one of the very best devised plans for investments for those who want to accumulate their savings or those who want to invest their savings by building a home. A strictly local institution, confining its loans to Rocky Mount real estate. No one could put their investment in a safer place than with this institution.





BULLUCK BUILDING D. J. Rose & Co. Contractors and Builders.
The Cellar, First and Second Floors of one of the Stores in this Building
are Occupied by Philips & Dowdy, Furniture Dealers

PHILIPS & DOWDY.

This firm is composed of Mr. W. B. Philips and I. J. Dowdy, the latter being the active manager of the business. They first began business in the Lancaster Building in the fall of 1902. Their business grew to such an extent that they rented one of the stores in the new Bulluck Building in the spring of 1904 and when two other stores were added to this building, which is by far the handsomest in Rocky Mount, they rented one of them and now occupy both the first, second and third stories of it. They carry a full line of every thing that goes to furnish a house, whether it be a cozy cottage or the most palatial residence. Mr. Dowdy, the manager, is one of the most popular young men in the city, and is representative of a class of young men, who, being ambitious, recognized a fertile field in Rocky Mount for their energy and business sagacity and moving here, have done well for themselves and helped largely in the growth of Rocky Mount. He has the confidence of his business associates and customers for square dealing.



MR. T. P. BRASWELL



MR. M. C. BRASWELL

T. P. BRASWELL & SON

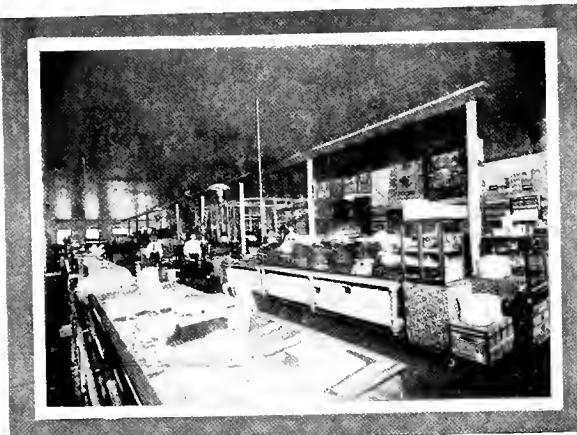
This firm is decidedly the most prominent one in Nash County, and fills a distinguished place among the leading mercantile concerns of eastern North Carolina. Composed of two partners, each of whom is so prominent in the financial world, the concern cannot easily fail being what it is. T. P. Braswell & Son do an annual business of \$15,000.00. As supply people they rank second to none and are among the largest retail dealers in fertilizers, selling annually more than 2,000 tons. The firm owns more than 4,000 acres of land situated in Nash and Edgecombe Counties. In an individual way, Mr. T. P. Braswell, the senior member of the firm, owns 5,000 acres of



STORE OF T. P. BRASWELL & SON, ONE OF THE LARGEST IN THE STATE

land. Leaving out of consideration the many other minor crops, he plants every year 250 acres of tobacco, 350 acres in cotton, and 75 in peanuts. Mr. M. C. Braswell plants annually 150 acres of tobacco, 500 in cotton and 150 in peanuts. Combining the individual interest of the two partners, with that of their partnership interest, they rank as the largest farmers in North Carolina. The firm, as well as the individual members of it, are singularly free from debts or obligations of any character except current ones. The acquisition of so much wealth by men who had all to gain by their own talent, activity and enterprise in the financial world, requires that some attention be paid to the two remarkable men who compose the firm.

Thos. P. Braswell was born in Edgecombe County in 1832, now being 74 years of age. Since his early manhood he has been conspicuous in the affairs of Nash County. While yet young his countrymen recognized him to be honest, reliable and of unusual force and ability, elected him to represent the county in the Legislature. The duties of the office he discharged in a manner creditable to himself and constituency. He has also served as chairman of the county commissioners and also chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of Nash County. In many other ways he has been a strong vital force in shaping the good government and healthy public sentiment that prevails so largely in his county. Broad gauged, of perfect mental balance and equipoise, with a vast fund of human kind-



INTERIOR VIEW OF STORE OF T. P. BRASWELL & SON.

liness in his composition, he has the respect of every one so fortunate as to know him well. The "Old Squire," as his many friends love to call him, occupies a place in their esteem that nothing can eradicate. He is a philosopher of that kindly school who reason that there is something of good in every man, and it is something of frequent comment that however much of blame others may see in the character of an individual he can always find some virtue more or less bright that goes to palliate. Cool and never disturbed, with a brain superlative in its strength and unerring in judgment, he stands unexcelled by any business man of this section. Neither has his success in life been peculiar to himself any more than that of many of his sterling qualities. He has raised a family of three boys, M. C. Braswell before mentioned, Dr. M. R. Braswell and J. C. Braswell. To each of them he has imparted in a large measure the same splendid judgment, perfect mental composition and undefinable quality that wins success in everything all the time.

Dr. M. R. Braswell is a prominent physician of Rocky Mount and, besides other large and varied interests,

occupies a conspicuous place in the insurance world as president of the Underwriters Fire Insurance Co. of Rocky Mount.

Mr. J. C. Braswell has achieved both distinction and success as banker, tobacconist, merchant, mill man and farmer. It seldom falls to the lot of one in life to have the happy fortune of transmitting to his children whatever of good quality he possesses and of knowing that all of them deservedly command the respect and confidence of all.

Mr. M. C. Braswell, whom we have before alluded to as the junior member of the firm of T. P. Braswell & Son, may be justly called the most prominent young man in this section of the State. His intellectual and moral worth has entitled him to political preferments, but every time he has been offered the glittering prize of public office his multitudinous private business cares and innate good sense has led him to decline. He is of that superior mental build in connection with perfect habits, energy and enterprise that will give prominence in whatever field of endeavor he may embark.

He, too, is a man of large and varied talents with the quality of concentrating his splendid mental force upon whatever undertaking he has in hand. No interest or concern is too large for him to manage successfully and neither is any detail too small for him to see that it is properly looked after and adjusted to its right place. To him belongs the encomium of having dealt with all manner of men in almost every legitimate business in the country without having upon his character and business reputation the slightest blemish.

He has a beautiful home in Battleboro, presided over by one of the most charming and accomplished women in North Carolina. He was married some years ago to Miss Alice Bryant, a member of the distinguished Edgecombe family of that name. They have an interesting family. His whole life might be summed up as ideal.

Though Messrs. T. P. and M. C. Braswell live at Battleboro, 8 miles from Rocky Mount, they are the largest real estate owners in Rocky Mount and are the largest stockholders in The Planters Bank, Mr. M. C. Braswell being one of its directors. They are also identified largely with a great many other enterprises in Rocky Mount, and can always be counted in the lead for the upbuilding of the town.





INTERIOR VIEW GRIFFIN'S DRUG STORE

1900

This is the oldest drug store in Rocky Mount. For years it has served its large patronage efficiently and to their entire satisfaction. In not a single instance during its existence has a known mistake occurred in the filling of prescriptions. None but experienced and intelligent employees are allowed to handle drugs. The motto of the store management has always been, and still is, reliability and correctness. The store is now up to date in every respect and carries a full line of all drugs, medicines and articles that go to make up a first class drug store, including periodicals and magazines of all kinds. All business is given prompt and careful attention.

Respectfully,

Cor. of Main and Tarboro Sts.
PHONE No. 154.

GRIFFIN'S DRUG STORE,
W. L. PHIFER, Mgr.

ROCKY MOUNT SAVINGS AND TRUST CO.

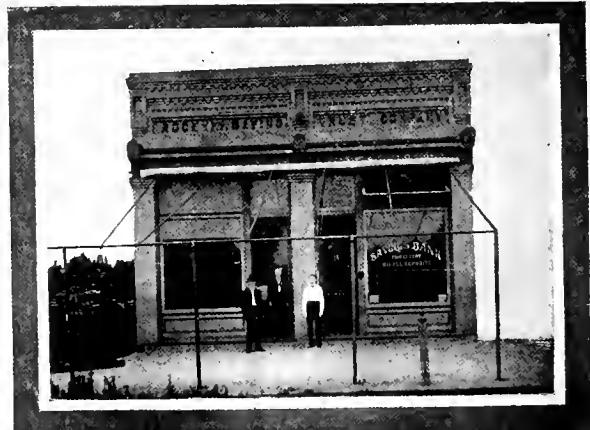
This institution was organized in 1903, beginning business November 2nd of that year. Its success has been truly wonderful and it has been of great benefit to the community by giving wage earners and industrious citizens generally an opportunity to deposit their savings in an absolutely safe place and at the same time receive four per cent. interest.

Mr. Thos. H. Battle has been its president since its organization and, like all the organizations he is connected with in an official way, receives his constant and careful supervision.

Mr. F. P. Spruill, the obliging, courteous and popular cashier, like most young men who make the biggest successes in life, came to Rocky Mount, on August 15th, 1898, from the farm, and began work in a minor position for the American Tobacco Co. By strict attention to his duties with this company and with other employers during the open season of the tobacco industry, he won the confidence of all



MR. F. P. SPRUILL, Cashier.



D. J. Rose & Co. Contractors and Builders.

with whom he came in close contact, and in 1901 he went to a business college at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., at the suggestion of his then employer, Mr. Alex. Thorpe. Returning to Rocky Mount, he was equipped to accept a responsible position and when the Savings Bank was organized, though ordinarily one of his age would be considered young for so responsible a position, he was unanimously elected cashier of the bank and secretary and treasurer of the Rocky Mount Homestead & Loan Association. These two institutions have thriven and prospered to a remarkable degree and no little of it is due to his diligent attention. He has a manner of dealing with patrons that makes it pleasant to do business with him, and it can be truly said he is universally popular with all with whom he comes in contact.

A good insight can be gathered of the growth of the savings bank by comparing the first and last statements. The first statement on Nov. 17th, 1903, showed \$5,046.64. The last statement, Sept. 4th, showed \$175,425.69. We refer elsewhere to the remarkable growth of the Rocky Mount Homestead & Loan Association.

THE AVENT LIVE STOCK COMPANY.

This company began business Sept. 19th, 1904, as an incorporated company. Mr. T. V. Avent is president and Mr. H. M. Avent is general manager and treasurer. They have stables on No. 119 Washington street and show rooms at No. 217 Tarboro street. They run a livery business and have a large sale and exchange trade in live stock, also carry in stock in their show rooms a very large and extensive line of all kinds of vehicles,

harness, robes and horse millinery. Their business has been a large and prosperous one and they will soon erect another large brick building on Tarboro street.

Mr. H. M. Avent, the manager, is a son of Mr. T. V.

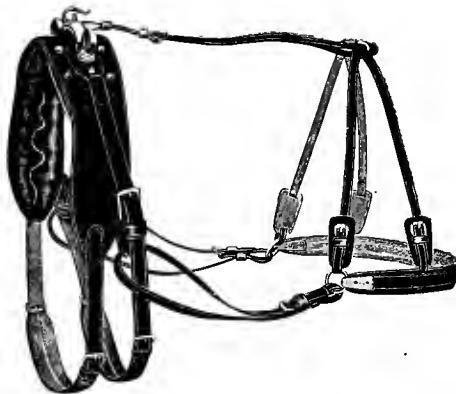
Avent. He was born August 25th, 1874, in Nash County. He was married to Miss Estelle Brown, of Hamilton, December 29th, 1897, and they have two bright children, Lou Spencer, aged 8 years, and Estelle Brown, aged 5 years. Mr. Avent is a prominent Pythian, a D. O. K. K. and an Elk, and is one of the city's most popular young business men. He thoroughly understands the business in which he is engaged and he has built up a reputation for square dealing which has gained him the confidence of the public and secured his firm the very best trade of this section.

The policy of the company is to build up business by so treating a customer that his further dealing with it may prove the adage of once a customer always a customer.



MR. H. M. AVENT.





Horses, Saddles, Buggies, Harness

If you want any thing in the line of Horses, Mules, Buggies, Wagons, Harness and Saddles, we are prepared to furnish you in most any kind, style, price or terms. We buy in large quantities and sell quick on small margins. Stables on Washington Street. Store Rooms on Tarboro Street



AVENT LIVE STOCK COMPANY

Phone No. 46



INTERIOR VIEW OF MR. GEO. L. PARKER'S JEWELRY STORE.

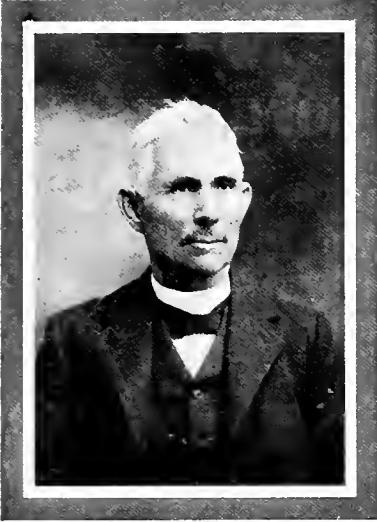
Mr. Geo. L. Parker is the pioneer jeweler of the city. He moved here twenty years ago, without any capital except character and his knowledge of the jewelry business. His business has grown steadily from year to year until he now has a large stock of everything to be usually found in a jewelry store. He employs two expert workmen, one of them a hand engraver. Mr. Parker for the past twelve years has held the position of watch inspector for the Coast Line for this district. He is a Mason and Pythian and a prominent member of the Baptist Church, being teacher of the Baraca class of that denomination. All his life he has taken a great interest in church work. He is a member of the board of graded school trustees. He was married in 1889 to Miss Laura Herbert, of Kinston. They have five children, Geo. L., Jr., Herbert, Irene, Laura Alice and Jesse Van. They recently moved into a new home on Nash street.



THE CUTHRELL HOTEL, Inc. C. Stout, Architect & Builder.

MR. T. L. BLAND, Proprietor.

The above picture shows the Cuthrell hotel. It was built by Mrs. T. A. Marriott, who ran it a number of years and sold it to Mr. J. R. Cuthrell in 1905. Mr. Cuthrell took charge Jan. 1st, 1906, and ran it until May 1st, 1906, when he leased the property to Mr. T. L. Bland. Mr. Bland has since conducted it in such a manner as to increase its already large patronage and it is now the most popular hostelry for traveling men in the city. Mr. Bland is a fine hotel man. He furnishes good rooms and a fine cuisine, and his courteous demeanor towards patrons and with all with whom he has come in contact has made him one of the city's most popular citizens. He was married in July, 1903, to Miss Queenie McGowan. They have one bright son, Alton. Mrs. Bland assists her husband in the management of the hotel and is responsible in no small degree for its popularity and consequent large patronage.



HON. R. H. RICKS.

No one individual fills a larger place in the history of Rocky Mount and its wide and varied achievements along all industrial, commercial and educational lines than the Hon. R. H. Ricks. He is pronouncedly a member of the best type of citizenship, "to the manor born;" he is a native of Nash County, a son and member of that splendid family of that name, famed for sterling uprightness, sincerity and honesty. He was born in 1839.

When he was little more than a boy the great war between the States began. Patriotic and brave, he was one of the first to volunteer his services in defence of the Southland. He became a member of the First N. C. Regiment, the "Bethel Regiment," as it was named. He was the friend and comrade of Henry Wyatt, whose name is glorified in history as the first martyr to the cause of Southern Independence. Mr. Ricks was himself a member of the party that made the rush on the house at Bethel where Wyatt lost his life, an act that has been characterized by a distinguished Southern writer as "one of the brightest gems that glitters in the crown of Carolina."

Brave, intelligent, and sincere as a soldier, he was no less so in civil life when he returned to ruined homes and fortunes in his native county at the close of his four years' service in the army. His magnificent business judgment and sympathetic heart were always placed liberally at the service of those who were seeking to rehabilitate the country, foster business enterprises, or in need of help and charity.

In many ways he has unselfishly given of his time and services to his native county and State. He served for several years as a member of the Board of County Commissioners—for much of the time as Chairman of the Board—as a member of the lower house of the Legislature in 1903, and that of the State Senate in 1905; he served his county-men and district, faithfully and with signal ability. As before indicated, Mr. Ricks has not only been successful in civil employments, but in the more varied interests of private business he has filled a conspicuous and useful place. As one evidence of his executive ability and its appreciation by his business associates, he is prominently identified with many business concerns. Among these is to be noted, that he is president of the Rocky Mount Cotton Mills, vice-president of the Bank of Rocky Mount and of the Mayodam and Washington Mills. He is president of Rocky Mount Ice and Fuel Co., Rocky Mount Guano Co., and is either a director in, or closely connected with, numerous other business and commercial enterprises. But not alone as banker, mill man and manufacturer,

does Mr. Ricks have right to distinction. He is the pioneer in the cultivation and growth of tobacco. His consummate business sagacity and foresight early showed to him the adaptability of our land to the cultivation of the golden weed and the profit in it. He planted the first considerable crop of tobacco in Nash County. The reward was quick and splendid. As a successful tobacco farmer he takes first rank in Eastern North Carolina. He is the owner of many thousand acres of land in the country adjacent to Rocky Mount. His home place contains 1,700 acres of fertile land, and here are grown, in great profusion, cotton, tobacco, corn and grasses.

His home, surrounded by ample grounds beautifully laid out by a landscape artist and bordered with oak and magnolias, is idealistic. The dwelling house, one of the finest in the country, is large, modernly built and in all respects an architectural gem.

Mr. Ricks has no children. He was married in 1874 to Miss Tempie Thorne, the only child and accomplished daughter of Mr. John E. Thorne. But, if he has no children himself, he has not failed to be generous to the children of others less well provided with this world's goods than he. He has taken in charge several of his relatives' children and those of his neighbors, and not only saw they attended school but paid all expenses connected with their doing so.

He is prominently connected with the foundation and after progress and success of the Rocky Mount Graded School. On one occasion alone he gave the sum of \$800 to the Rocky Mount Graded School to meet some necessary expenses connected with its building. These are but a few of the engaging traits and qualities and achievements of the best known citizen of Nash County. With it all, be it said to his eternal credit, he has come this far in life without any man having just cause to say that he has been dishonest, disloyal to his friends and State, or insincere.





MR. W. E. JEFFREYS.

MR. W. E. JEFFREYS.

The subject of this sketch was born in Granville County, this State, Sept. 22nd, 1859, and is therefore 47 years of age. He was educated in the schools of his native county and thereafter early embarked in the active duties of a most successful business life.

Removing to Henderson he associated himself with the tobacco interest and trade just gaining a foothold there, and by his skilled and intelligent efforts contributed not a little to the enviable reputation once enjoyed by that town.

After a residence of 4 years in Henderson, every moment of which was enlivened by his tireless energy, he moved to Rocky Mount in 1892 and, as one of the proprietors of "Jeffreys Tobacco Warehouse," won a reputation as a tobaccocon-
ist that has been excelled by none of the many splendid judges of the plant who have since operated on our local market.

Mr. Jeffreys is a farmer both by instinct and many years of training. Successful in all employments, he takes the most pleasure in and wins most easily the golden profits that come to the tiller of the soil. Yielding to his natural inclination and acquired tastes, in 1895 he bought the very valuable tract of land and homestead near Rocky Mount, known as the "Thorpe Place;" subsequently he purchased adjoining tracts, until his real estate holdings in Nash County

number nearly 1,000 acres. He is among the largest land owners and most considerable farm-men in the county. A thorough-going agriculturist, he has added to his farming operations that of dairyman. His herd of milch cows is composed of the purest and most aristocratic of the bovine breeds. His dairy products are famed far and wide. "Jeffreys' Butter" is the delight and joy of every housekeeper in Rocky Mount. Mr. Jeffreys is interested not only in farming and dairying, as before stated, but is the moving spirit in many enterprises of interest to Rocky Mount and its people. He is one of the owners of the Jeffreys-Ricks Clay Works, a concern that manufactures an especially fine brick for building and paving purposes (elsewhere referred to in this book), and that enjoys a large sale all over the State of North Carolina, and the States adjoining.

Mr. Jeffreys, for several years, has been closely associated with the political and civil affairs of his adopted county. He is deservedly popular among his countrymen, and they would be willing to confer upon him any office within their gift. As Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners he has won the approval of all. In that position his services have not only been invaluable but of the most enduring character.

The home life and family of Mr. Jeffreys is most charming. He was married, in 1892, to Miss Dena Lyon.

The union has been a congenial one. Their children: Flossie, age 14, Willis 12, Richard 9, Helene 4, and Francis 2 years, are all bright, vivacious children, the pride of their loving parents and, from their refinement and gentleness, secure in the esteem and regard of their associates.



MR. HENRY N. BROWN, JR.



MR. HENRY N. BROWN, JR.

Mr. Henry N. Brown, Jr., is general manager for the Jeffreys-Ricks Clay Works, and the fine product turned out by that concern is, in a large measure, due to his extensive and thorough knowledge of brick manufacturing in all its branches. He has been with his present employers the past four years and during that time he has served them patiently and efficiently.



INTERIOR VIEW OF CUTHRELL CAFE

owner of Hotel Cuthrell, reference to which is made elsewhere. the most sagacious business men in our thriving place.

THE CUTHRELL CAFE.

On this page is shown an interior view of the Cuthrell Cafe, located at 116 Washington street. Mr. J. R. Cuthrell, the proprietor, acquired the business from Mr. W. H. Brown, who already had a fine patronage for the business, but Mr. Cuthrell has built it to even greater proportions, for he just naturally, it seems, knows how to furnish the fine viands to satisfy the inner man, and he has built up a reputation that cannot help but attract a large patronage. He keeps a cleanly place, personally sees that food is properly prepared and served, and he seems to know where to secure fine and choice delicacies in the way of food to tempt the most fastidious appetite. Any article in the way of food, in season, can be found at his restaurant, if anywhere.

Mr. Cuthrell was born, in 1853, in Norfolk County, Va. He moved to North Carolina in 1874. He was married to Miss Tillie Mills, of Rowan County, December 27th, 1883, and they have seven children: John, Walter, Joe, Henry, Lucile, William and Julian. Mr. Cuthrell is He owns other real estate in the city and is one of



ROCKY MOUNT LUMBER CO.'S PLANT.

ROCKY MOUNT LUMBER CO.

This company was formed last year, beginning business in December, 1905, a new plant being erected on the Nashville branch railroad, just outside the corporate limits. Mr. D. J. Rose is president, Mr. John P. Edwards, secretary and treasurer, and Mr. W. N. Gardner, manager. All three have a thorough knowledge of the manufacturing of lumber in all its branches. They manufacture flooring, ceiling, weather boarding, porch and stair fixtures, mouldings, shelving of all descriptions, mantels and all modern interior work. Since the beginning they have had a large and increasing patronage, for the quality of their work is second to none.

THE PLANTERS COTTON SEED OIL CO.

This plant was organized in 1904, the stock being taken entirely by persons engaged in farming, and its organization has caused immense benefit both to its stockholders and the farmers generally in this section by paying high prices for the raw product, thereby creating the strongest kind of competition and extending every possible facility for the manufacture of the farmers' cotton seed and furnishing them fine facilities for ginning. The plant is located at Hargrove's Siding, in Edgecombe County, on the main line of the Norfolk & Carolina branch of the Coast Line. The site contains about 7 acres of very valuable land fronting towards the railroad and running to South Rocky Mount, and it is an excellent site for other manufacturing enterprises. The plant is equipped throughout with the most modern machinery and gets all out of the raw product that is to be gotten. It manufactures a high grade meal for feeding purposes and for fertilizers. The company owns and operates a fertilizer factory in connection with the oil mill business.

For the two years of operation this mill has ginned over 4,000 bales of cotton.

Mr. E. L. Daughtridge is president and treasurer of the company and the plant is under his direct management. He has done well with it even in the face of the strongest possible competition and the plant, like practically all the manufacturing industries of Rocky Mount, has a bright future before it.



PLANTERS COTTON SEED OIL CO.'S PLANT.

HON. E. L. DAUGHTRIDGE.

Born in the historic county of Edgecombe, January 17th, 1863, and therefore only 43 years of age, the subject of this sketch has won especial and deserved prominence, as legislator, farmer and business man.

He is a son of the late William Daughtridge, well remembered among our people for his business sagacity, great wealth, and many engaging qualities of head and heart. He received a good education in the common schools of the county and in the Bingham School. Married Oct. 10th, 1883, to an attractive and accomplished lady, Miss Mary W. Odom, he has an interesting family of seven children : Maurice, Clarence, Clyde, Edward Lee, Mary, Archie and Henry. In the training and cultivation of this family no means or efforts have been spared. The result is that his home, "Engleside," is famed for hospitality, good breeding and refinement.

As a farmer and, in the broader sense, an agriculturist, Mr. Daughtridge takes high rank in the State. "Springfield," "Flag Marsh" and "Engleside" comprising in all 2,900 acres, are models of successful, scientific cultivation. His handsome residence in Rocky Mount, nearing completion, when done will be one of the most costly and elaborately finished in the State. Mr. Daughtridge is interested in many business concerns in addition to his interests as a farmer. With whatever connected, his excellent business judgment and stainless character gives unusual weight to his views and opinions. By an unanimous vote he was elected and is now president of the State Fair, or North Carolina Agricultural Society. The selection is an assurance of success for the society. Mr. Daughtridge is familiar with managing successfully the details of large concerns. It may be expected that his large sense of State pride will bring out his best efforts in the furtherance of an interest so dear to North Carolinians. Mr. Daughtridge served Edgecombe County faithfully and efficiently for two terms in the Legislature. He was some years a member of the Board of County Commissioners. He is one of North Carolina's commissioners to the Jamestown Exposition, in 1907, and by the commission has been selected as treasurer. The worth and splendid achievements of Mr. Daughtridge in whatever department of business and civil life he has devoted his time and talents have so signally won upon his county-men and the State, that he has often been appointed upon commissions to represent the State and, time and again, has been pressed by his numerous and influential friends to allow the use of his name for some of the very high honors in the gift of the people.



HON. E. L. DAUGHTRIDGE.

JONES' GROCERY STORE

Mr. G. F. Jones' Grocery Store is located at No. 123 Main Street and his phone No. is 167. He carries a large and high grade stock of everything that could be imagined to be in the grocery line. He has been in the grocery business fifteen years, and he has enjoyed a large trade and his manner of treating customers has been so uniformly courteous and "square" that almost invariably he has retained the trade of those who once start with him.



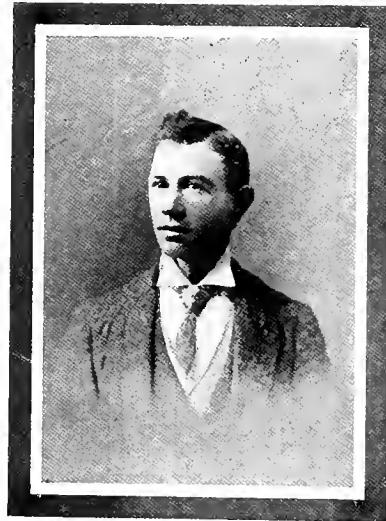
INTERIOR VIEW OF MR. G. F. JONES' GROCERY STORE

He was born in Nash county in 1864. He was married in 1885 to Miss Dora Edmundson, and they have six children, Willie, Lula, Pollard, Raymond, Linwood and Clarence.

Mr. Jones makes a specialty of furnishing groceries to family trade, and no grocer in Rocky Mount enjoys a larger patronage, or more deservedly so.

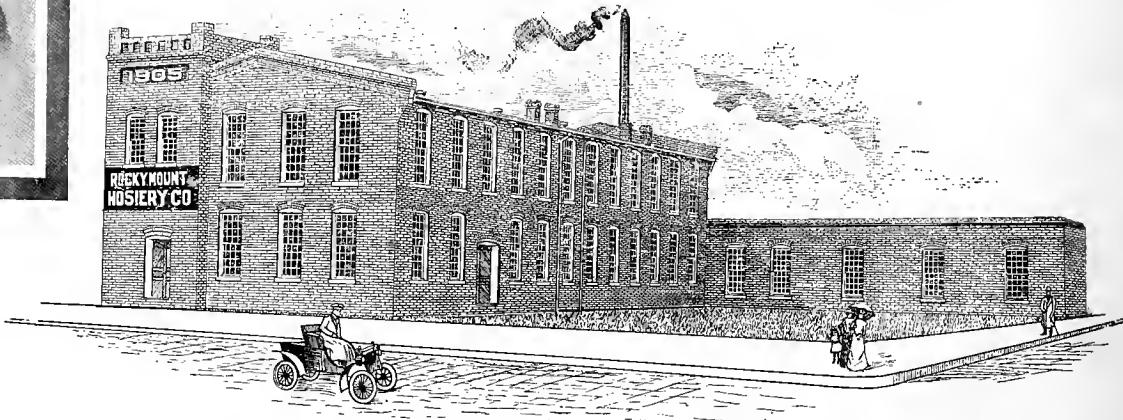


ROCKY MOUNT HOSIERY COMPANY



MR. GEO. T ANDREWS
ing and finishing plant.
The factory has since ad-
ded other machinery, and
now has 126 machines in
active operation. The ca-
pacity to start with was
350 dozen pair per day,

and it is now 600. Though not yet two years old, the plant has shown a very satisfactory profit. The quality of the work is of an unusually high order and finds ready sale, in fact, the demand is greater than the capacity of the plant. The success of the mill is due almost entirely to having secured a thoroughly competent superintendent. Mr. and Mrs. Andrews moved to Rocky Mount in January, 1905, and make a valuable addition to the social life of the city.



ROCKY MOUNT TOBACCO MARKET

Brief Sketch of Its History—Tobacco Raising In Eastern Carolina.



ROCKY MOUNT TOBACCO BOARD OF TRADE

Bright tobacco has been raised in Eastern North Carolina for perhaps sixty years or more, and the "oldest inhabitant" can hardly recall the time when the weed was first planted in this section. Many, however, recall the



time when comparatively few raised it as a money crop. Our first nearest markets were Petersburg, Richmond and Danville. About 25 years ago markets were established as near by as Henderson and Oxford, and then it was that the production of tobacco was stimulated, not only around these towns, but in Franklin, Nash, Wilson and Halifax counties.

Many of our farmers now engaged in the cultivation of tobacco once had to ship or haul their tobacco forty or fifty miles and sell on the Henderson, Oxford and Warrenton markets. At that time the farmers of this entire section were trading with and paying tribute to those markets. Henderson and Oxford became great in those days and had little competition.

A change gradually came about and thinking men of this section soon began to wonder why, if tobacco was a profitable crop for Henderson and Oxford, why not have a market at home? This line of thought soon crystallized in an effort to start a "home market," and in the year 1887 a movement

was set on foot by our fellow townsman, Mr. A. P. Thorpe, and others, which resulted in the building of the first warehouse in Rocky Mount. This warehouse was only 50 x 100 feet, and would look like a pygmy by the side of our four warehouses of today. Our friends met with more or less obstacles in the establishment of the market, and for a year or two its fate was in the balance until in the year 1900, Capt. S. S. Berger, and others, were induced to come here, fresh from the Danville market, with new ideas and advantages gained from long experience in the business there. That same year another warehouse was built, making two. Even under these conditions, which seemed favorable, the market had an uphill business, and it aroused all the courage and fighting qualities in these pioneers to battle against these odds, and to overcome more or less prejudice in the minds of many who had always raised cotton and other crops, and knew little or nothing about tobacco, its raising or its sale. They finally triumphed, however, over all difficulties.

New men gradually came in, and they, together with many of our most substantial and public spirited men, of the town and county, put their shoulders to the wheel and achieved the result we have today. We have had many ups and downs, competition on all hands, new markets springing up like mushrooms in a night, but amid all the competition and other obstacles, we have steadily grown from a million pounds or less the first season to fifteen million pounds in 1902. Since that time the production of tobacco has fallen off considerably, due partly to the low prices of tobacco which prevailed for several years, and the unusually high prices for cotton, coupled with the scarcity of labor, poor yield and other causes. While other markets have for a few years past exceeded this one in number of pounds sold, yet Rocky Mount has come nearer holding its own than any other market. In average price paid and stability of market we have more than held our own, in fact it is conceded by all hands interested, that tobacco sells for more money per pound here than on any market in the State.

As a wrapper market Rocky Mount stands in a class by itself. None of the eastern markets compare with us in this line. Our tobaccos, while not so highly colored as some of the tobaccos east of us, as a rule, are the best flavored, have more body, and smoke and chew better than any tobaccos in the world. Every prominent manufacturer in the United States, and many of them in foreign countries, have representatives on our market.

The two big companies have large plants on our market and are active bidders at all times, one of them making this the central re-handling point in the east, shipping tobacco from a dozen or more other places to be rehandled at this point.

We have four large, well lighted and well equipped warehouses, with ample floor space to take care of every pound of tobacco brought here, while the active and polite proprietors, with their corps of assistants are among the



FARMERS BRICK WAREHOUSE

D J. Rose & Co. Contractors and Builders.



best in the State, and assure every patron of the market highest prices and best attention. They all have more capital employed in their business than ever before and are in a better financial condition, and are pulling together with a spirit of unanimity never before equaled.

Our independent buyers are especially strong, having ample capital to do any business entrusted to their care. They have a full line of orders and are more active bidders at this time than ever before in the history of the market.

Figures are usually but dull read'g, but we point with pride to more than one hundred millions of pounds of tobacco sold during the past fifteen years at an average of over nine cents per pound, making a grand total of more than nine million dollars paid out in this community for tobacco, and perhaps a million five hundred thousand more



COOPER'S WAREHOUSE.



TOBACCO PRIZERY OF THORPE & RICKS

expended for labor, salaries, etc. This seems fabulous to the unthinking man or woman, and can hardly be realized by those even whom have been the recipients of the bounty. But amazing as this may seem, it is only an earnest of the future possibilities of the Rocky Mount Tobacco Market, whose success is assured for all time, and must be accomplished by all pulling together and working for the upbuilding of the market.



GARRETT & CO.

We call notice to the advertisement of Garrett & Co. on the back cover-page of this book. This is an institution that had its origin in North Carolina. They at present have their headquarters at Norfolk, Va., for convenience in shipping to all parts of the world. The firm still operates two plants in North Carolina, one at Medoc and the other at Tokay, and still secures its raw product largely from counties of Eastern North Carolina. The company is offering great inducements to farmers in Eastern Carolina to raise Scuppernong grapes. Some of our farmers have already taken advantage of this firm's liberal proposition and made good money thereby. Garrett & Co. offer to contract for 5,000 acres more in grapes. The firm is one that has made a phenomenal success, their products being sold almost the world over, and they are perfectly responsible for the permanency of their contract. The Rocky Mount Record contains a sketch of the history of Garrett & Co. and a full exposition of how and what it will cost to plant a given number of acres in grapes and the profits to be made from them. The article also gives an explanation of an invention for gathering grapes through a process devised by Mr. R. R. Bulluck of Ringwood, N. C. All interested in this matter will be sent a copy of the paper, free, by addressing the Rocky Mount Record and asking for the copy containing the write-up of Garrett & Co. and Scuppernong grape raising.



THOMAS

THE PLANTERS BANK.



Neither The Oldest Nor The Youngest, But Has a Larger
Combined Surplus and Profits Than Any Bank
In Nash or Edgecombe Counties.



The Planters Bank furnishes a good illustration of the success of enterprises in Rocky Mount when well managed. In 1899 the opportunity for the growth and development of the town along all lines suggested to some of the leading business spirits of the town and nearby community the need of greater banking facilities than were then afforded, and hence the formation of the Planters Bank. The idea underlying its formation was ^{the} conception, being to give depositors an opportunity to become stockholders and share in the profits. An innovation in bank management in this section at that time. Another leading idea that actu-

of the new bank was to encourage new enterprises and to give the needed aid in the development of the town. Not only was the patronage, friendship and business of these new industrial and commercial enterprises industriously sought after, but a warm and cordial support was in turn extended to them by the bank. Realizing further that some of the mightiest and most worthy enterprises that exist may have a small beginning, and that little operators in the process of time may become great ones and whose friendship and influence would be of incalculable value, the new financial institution let pass no opportunity to make of these enterprising and struggling beginners, fast and cordial friends. While the institution from its beginning until now, as its unparalleled success would amply demonstrate, has been conducted upon thoroughly business lines, it has also been remembered by those who have had its welfare in charge that courtesy in treatment of its depositors and friends is, after all, one of the surest guarantees of a lasting friendship. It is a subject of frequent remark that all uniformly receive from every one connected with the bank, from the president down to the collector, the most courteous and polite treatment. The growth of the institution, for this part of the State at least, has been marvelous and unparalleled.

It is one of the best managed and most substantial institutions in this section of North Carolina, neither the oldest nor the youngest, but it has the largest combined Surplus and Profits of any bank in Nash and Edgecombe counties. An idea of its growth and stability may be gathered from the following statement:

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT :

| | <i>Capital:</i> | <i>Surplus and Profits:</i> | <i>Deposits:</i> | <i>Resources:</i> |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Nov. 1st, 1903 : | \$40,000.00 | \$15,800.00 | \$108,200.00 | \$201,000.00 |
| Nov. 1st, 1904: | 40,000.00 | 19,700.00 | 160,700.00 | 223,000.00 |
| Nov. 1st, 1905: | 40,000.00 | 26,000.00 | 184,000.00 | 253,000.00 |
| At present : | 50,000.00 | 40,200.00 | | 320,000.00 |

Average deposits at present : \$200,000.00.



MR. J. C. BRASWELL, Presdt.



MR. L. L. HARDIN, Cashier.



MR. C. V. BROWN, Asst.-Cashier.

It does a general banking business, and numbers among its correspondents the leading banks of New York, Baltimore, Richmond and Norfolk. The bank solicits deposits from every source.

The following stock-holders comprise the Board of Directors: M. C. Braswell, H. B. Bryan, Dr. M. R. Braswell, George S. Edwards, W. L. Petty, J. R. Sorsby, J. C. Braswell, W. S. Wilkinson and Jno. M. Sherrod. The Attorneys for the bank are Bunn & Bunn. All of these gentlemen have for years been prominently identified with the largest business interests of the town and this section of North Carolina, and their names are sufficient to show that the present success of the institution is in no wise meteoric, but steady and substantial, and that it shall continue as it has been—a safe, sound, substantial fiduciary institution.

In the beginning, while its promoters did not fail to enlist the sympathy and support of the small operators, it was fortunate in gathering in and linking to its success and destinies a large number of our most successful men of

affairs. Among these should be mentioned Dr. J. W. Sherrod of Hamilton and Mr. T. P. Braswell of Battleboro, two of the wealthiest men of this section, and both likewise noted for their conservatism of character and wonderful success in a financial way.

But, however worthy and useful may be the several parts of any machine, or the qualities of the men who compose any organization, after all, its success may be won and retained only by executive ability. In this respect the Planters Bank is the peer of any and excelled by none. Mr. Jas. C. Braswell, on the chartering and organization of the new banking institution, was elected its first President, being at that time the youngest bank president in North Carolina. He has consecutively filled that responsible office to the present time. Of splendid mind and mental poise, conservative and energetic, with the ability to make and retain friends, he has constantly carried the institution forward to the attainment in every year of still greater things. Mr. Braswell, by reason of his close and intimate touch with practically every business enterprise and industry of any importance in Rocky Mount, has been able to make business and win friendships for the institution over which he so wisely and well presides. It may be added in passing that he was one of the principal organizers and the first president of The Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce, which has achieved so much for the lasting good of the town. He is also President and Treasurer of the Rocky Mount Sash & Blind Co., (one of the largest and most successful manufacturing concerns in Rocky Mount) of J. C. Braswell & Co., leaf tobacco dealers of Rocky Mount, the Hosiery Mills, Marygold Heights Land Co., and is Secretary of the Planters Cotton Seed Oil Mill, and of Wilkinson, Bulluck & Co., leading insurance agents, and Treasurer of the Underwriters Fire Insurance Co., and is also Vice-President of the Rocky Mount Savings & Trust Co., an institution in which the Planters Bank is interested. In addition to the above he is director in a number of other corporations doing business in Rocky Mount. He has served for twelve consecutive years as a member of the Board of Town Commissioners and is a member of the Board of Graded School Trustees. He has always taken a vigorous and patriotic interest in whatever pertains to the interest of the town and its magnificent schools and in the discharge of his duties as commissioner and school committeeman his advice and views are greatly relied upon and valued by his associates. He also owns large farming interests and town real estate. Mr. Braswell's home on North Church Street is one of the most splendid in Eastern North Carolina and is a place of culture and refinement. He was married five years ago to Miss Grizzelle Burton, a lady of many charms and graces of person and mind. His home is further brightened and enlivened by two interesting children, Jas. Craig, Jr., and Robert Russell. Mr. Braswell graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1890.

Mr. Jno. M. Sherrod, the Vice-President of the bank, is an active business man of sterling worth. He has large means and has been very successful. Mr. Sherrod devotes his time to his many investments and large farming interests.

Mr. W. P. Hamilton was the first Cashier of the Planters Bank. He was forced by failing eyesight to resign the position. Confronted with the difficulty of selecting a new man, with all of the responsibility, care and caution

that is required, the field was thoroughly canvassed to secure some one equipped in temperament and training for the arduous and delicate duties of that very responsible office. It is quite a tribute to the worth and ability of Mr. L. L. Hardin that he should have been selected to fill the position vacated by Mr. Hamilton. Experience has proven how wisely the directors of the bank made their selection. Thoroughly accurate, clear minded, and courteous, the new cashier quickly made an impression upon the business men of this community that no time can remove. Not only is he popular with the thoroughgoing business men of close and exacting business methods, but in church and social circles he fills a secure place in the estimation and esteem of the people of the town. In thorough touch with the outside world and enjoying the perfect confidence of his associates, it is no wonder that during his occupancy of the office of cashier of the bank that it has enjoyed a larger proportion of prosperity and growth than ever before. Mr. Hardin is a native of South Carolina and a graduate of Wofford College. He was married in August, 1904, to Miss Addria E. Chreitzberg, the beautiful and attractive daughter of the famous Methodist divine, Rev. Dr. H. F. Chreitzberg. Mr. Hardin is 28 years of age and comes of a prominent family of that name of South Carolina.

As before intimated, a part of the policy of the banking institution has been to select men both capable and popular. Mr. C. V. Brown, as Assistant Cashier, affords another excellent illustration of the success of their efforts in that direction. He is a young man of exceptionally good business qualities. He is 23 years of age. He received a literary course at Fishburn Military School and later took a business course at Kentucky University of Lexington, Ky. Active, energetic and willing to do, there is little cause for wonder that he has been so rapidly promoted to the position he now fills. He, too, has a secure position in the estimation of the business circles of Rocky Mount and we know of no one who has a brighter future than he.

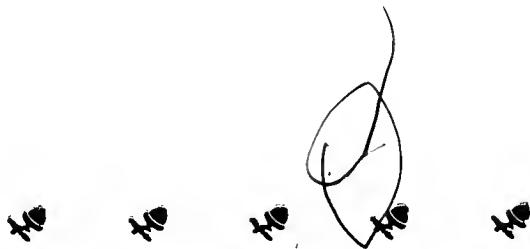
Mr. Orem W. Arrington has filled for three years the position of collector of the bank, and by his untiring zeal and devotion to his duties has won the admiration of all who have come in contact with him. His success in the future is assured.

To meet its ever increasing business demands, its Board of Directors have recently begun the erection of a new bank building on the lot corner of West Main Street and Sunset Avenue. The building, when completed, will be one of the most handsome bank buildings in North Carolina. In design it is an architectural gem. It extends from Main to Howard Street, fronting 40 feet on Main Street, and running back 110 feet along Sunset Avenue to Howard Street, fronting on that street 40 feet. The building will be three stories high and built of dark buff pressed brick and granite. The front of the building will be occupied by the bank, and the rest of the building will be used for store and offices, all of which will have all modern conveniences and be handsomely appointed. The bank in its new home and under the wise management and favorable auspices that hitherto have governed its business career may be confidently expected to steadily go forward in the achievement of even greater success.

H. W. Simpson, architect of the Planters Bank Building is a native of New Bern, N. C. He has been practice-

ing architecture in Eastern Carolina for the past twelve years. Before locating at New Bern he had six years' experience in Baltimore and Washington and several of the largest Southern cities.

Since practicing architecture in this State, he has been the architect for some of the finest private and public buildings in the Eastern part of this State. He has just completed plans for the new Presbyterian Church edifice to be erected in this city, which, when completed, will be numbered among the handsomest churches of the State.





WILKINSON, BULLUCK & CO.
INSURANCE, RENTAL & REAL ESTATE AGENTS.

This is one of the very largest and most important business firms in Rocky Mount, the members being Messrs. W. S. Wilkinson, J. C. Braswell and Mrs. W. S. Wilkinson.

The company was originated by Mr. W. S. Wilkinson, who is today the active manager of the business. He came to Rocky Mount in June 1894, when the town was a mere village. The growth of the business of which he is manager has been commensurate with the tremendous growth of the town.

The firm handles all forms of insurance, conducts the oldest and largest rental agency in the city and handles real estate on a large scale. They are at present located in three offices on Main Street and have rented commodious quarters on the first floor of Planters Bank building, which will not only be the finest in the city but the handsomest bank building in Eastern Carolina, reference to which is made elsewhere in this book. The offices in this building to be occupied by this firm are being especially constructed to meet the requirements of their business.

Mr. W. S. Wilkinson is one of the most versatile men to be found anywhere. He has been the moving spirit in the formation of many enterprises, and at present holds the following positions: General manager of the firm above named, secretary of the Underwriters Fire Insurance Co. of Rocky Mount, secretary and manager of the Rocky Mount Brick Company, vice-president of the Rocky Mount Lumber Co., vice-president of Rocky Mount Ice & Fuel Co., and Superintendent of Public

Schools of Nash county and a director in a large number of other enterprises of the city. Undoubtedly he is as capable of discharging as much business in the same length of time and in a creditable manner as any man to be found anywhere. He is highly educated, being an A. B. graduate of the State University and has achieved a wide reputation as an expert mathematician. He is a son of Mr. F. S. Wilkinson, who is Superintendent of the Public Schools of Edgecombe county and one of the leading educators of Eastern Carolina, and was born in Tarboro in 1866. He was married to Miss Lula Wimberly, member of one of the first families of Edgecombe county and they have six bright children. They have a nicely fitted up suburban home on the Falls Road just on the outskirts of the city.

Mr. J. C. Braswell, one of the members of this firm, is president of The Planters Bank, reference to whom is made in the write up of the bank.

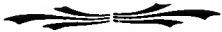
No business could be more fortunate in their employes. Miss Lucy C. Thorpe has been with the firm four years and is recognized, not only locally, but in insurance circles elsewhere, as being most efficient and competent in th

details of the insurance business. She is a member of one of the foremost families in this section and is universally popular.

Mr. Paul Gorham, who has entire control of the rental department, also comes of one of the pioneer families of this section. He has been with the firm for several years and his success in the able management of his department of the business has proven his ability.

Mr. Jacob Battle, Jr., who recently accepted a position as book-keeper, is one of the most competent in the city. He has held several important similar positions and was secured by this firm upon its becoming general agents of The Underwriters Fire Insurance Co. of Rocky Mount. He is a son of Judge Jacob Battle and one of the family of that name which has achieved such prominence and acquired many honors in the history of the State.

Mr. W. S. Wilkinson is the general agent of the Maryland Life Insurance Co., of Baltimore for Eastern Carolina and has placed a large amount of business for that company.



6



MR. THOMAS H. BATTLE'S RESIDENCE.

MR. JNO. C. STOUT.

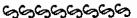


MR. JNO C. STOUT.

Mr. John C. Stout has designed and built more beautiful homes in Rocky Mount by far than any other contractor, and as for that matter, he has fine specimens of architecture throughout the State and even in other states attesting his high order of genius for that class of work. Among the buildings he has erected in Rocky Mount we mention the Cuthrell Hotel, the residences of Messrs. E. W. Smith, J. C. Braswell, D. D. Cuthrell, H. E. Crews, E. L. Daughridge, Jas. P. Bunn, Geo. L. Parker, the Coast Line Hospital, the Municipal building, the Southern Cotton Seed Oil plant, and the residences of Mrs. M. F. Daughridge, Dr. G. L. Wimberly, Capt. W. H. Horn, Dr. C. F. Smithson, Dr. J. P. Whitehead, the Braswell House and many other buildings in the city.

Among the buildings he has erected out of town we mention at Tarboro those of Dr. Julian Baker, Mrs. Jas. Pender, T. H. Gatlin, J. J. Green, and Dr. Cliff Whitehead. At Washington Congressman Jno. H. Small, Messrs. B. B. Nicholson, J. D. Grimes, H. S. Ward and Capt. Geo. T. Leach. At Wilson Messrs. S. A. Woodard, E. A. Darden, B. F. Lane, Capt. T. W. Tillman and the annex to the Wilson Sanitorium. At Wilmington the Y. M. C. A. building, the Atlantic National Bank Building and F. Rheinstein's store. These do not anything like enumerate the buildings erected even in the towns mentioned by Mr. Stout. We just mentioned these few to show how extensive his work has been, brought about by the reputation he has created for fine work. Mr. Stout is not only a contractor and builder, but a fine architect, and he

takes pride in his work, a condition of mind that is necessary to get the best results in such a high art as architecture. He was married in 1886 to Miss Hattie C. Jourdan. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and is a past master of St. John's Lodge No. 1 at Wilmington, a Knight Templar and Shriner, a K. of P. and an Elk.

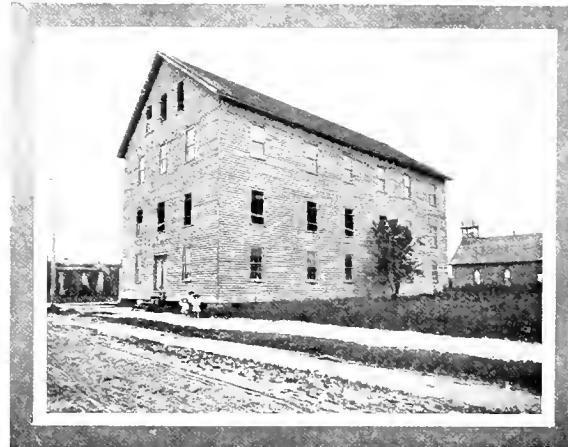




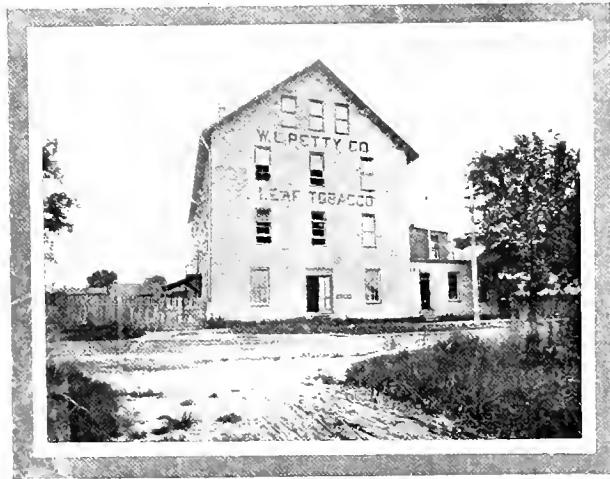
RESIDENCE OF MR. R. D. BULLUCK.



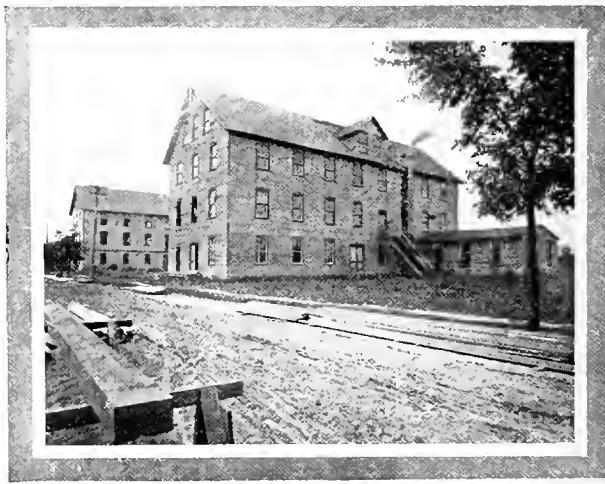
RESIDENCE OF MR. W. D. COCHRAN.



TOBACCO PRIZERY OF MR. W. S. CLARY.



TOBACCO STEMMERY of W. L. PETTY CO.



TOBACCO PRIZERY OF J. C. BRASWELL & CO.



THE UNDERWRITERS FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF ROCKY MOUNT.

The organization of The Underwriters Fire Insurance Company of Rocky Mount is a good evidence of how alert and progressive are the business men of Rocky Mount. About the last of January, of the present year, a number of our strong business men who, without exception, have made successes in their business careers, consulted together and decided to organize a fire insurance company. These men guaranteed the stock and the work of interesting a large number of the business men of Rocky Mount and elsewhere was taken up. In a short time the amount of \$51,500.00 capital and \$12,875.00 surplus was subscribed and the company organized. Dr. M. R. Braswell was elected president, Mr. T. J. Hackney vice-president, Mr. J. C. Braswell treasurer and Mr. W. S. Wilkinson secretary. The following directors were elected: Messrs. W. L. Sherrod, of Hamilton, J. M. Sherrod, W. T. Braswell, Dr. J. C. Braswell and R. H. Speight, of Whitakers; Messrs. J. B. Philips, H. B. Bryan, M. C. Braswell and Dr. H. B. Marriott, of Battleboro; Messrs. Geo. B. Curtis and S. C. Bellamy, of Enfield; Mr. R. S. Wells and Dr. W. P. Mercer, of Elm City; Messrs. W. D. Hackney and W. L. Banks, of Wilson; Mr. Frank Shields and Dr. J. P. Wimberley, of Scotland Neck; Mr. S. F. Austin, of Nashville; W. J. Webb, of Pinetops; Messrs. F. C. Ferguson, E. L. Daughtridge, T. J. Hackney, J. C. Braswell, J. D. Bulluck, G. S. Edwards, D. J. Rose, Drs. G. L. Wimberly and M. R. Braswell, of Rocky Mount.

The company was organized with the purpose in view of trying to keep at home some of the tremendous volume of money that has always been sent away for insurance purposes, and it was decided to do business only in North Carolina. Besides the business men interested in the company from Rocky Mount, there have been a large number interested in nearby towns. The result has shown that our people are patriotic and recognize the good business policy of keeping money at home so that they may reap some of the benefits thereby. Especially have the citizens of Rocky Mount stood staunchly by the institution. It is by such methods that a town is built larger and larger, and it is a source of congratulation that the home people show their faith by their patronage.

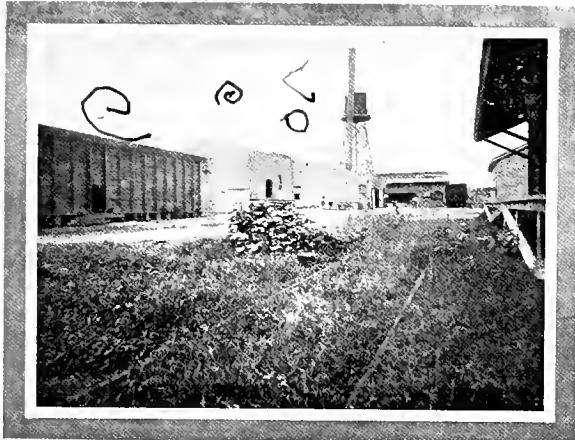
The plan of operation of the company is ideal, being so constituted as to insure, it would seem, absolute and perfect safety in the handling of its business. An executive committee, consisting of Messrs. T. J. Hackney, Geo. S. Edwards, J. C. Braswell and Drs. Geo. L. Wimberley and M. R. Braswell, meets every month for the purpose of investing the funds and examining the affairs of the company. The directors meet every three months and a thorough examination of the condition of the company is made. By this method all the transactions of the company are quickly brought under the observation of a large number of fine business men. This company has been organ-

ized not quite a year, yet its business has been very satisfactory indeed, although this has proven an unusually hard year on fire insurance companies. One reason for the success of this company is that great care is taken in the selection of risks.

A great deal of consideration was given the matter before the selection of officers for the company, and as a consequence no company could be more fortunate in that respect, for all four of the officers are men who have achieved success by their own efforts and ability. The president, Dr. M. R. Braswell, is a man possessing an unusually well poised and analytical mind. He is not only a physician who has enjoyed a large success in his profession, but he is a student of business principles on a large plane. His mind is one that has a capacity for observing and absorbing useful information along almost all lines of business and affairs of current interest. He was born in Edgecombe county, near Rocky Mount, December 12th, 1864. He is a son of Mr. T. P. Braswell, one of our most successful and wealthiest citizens. He received his education at Bingham, Wake Forest and the University of North Carolina, and graduated in medicine at the University of Maryland. He located in Rocky Mount in 1886 and has enjoyed a large practice ever since. He was married in 1894 to Miss Mamie Hackney, the beautiful and cultured daughter of Mr. T. J. Hackney. They have two bright and intelligent children, Tom and Mamie. Dr. Braswell owns considerable real estate in Rocky Mount and operates several farms. He is interested in a large number of our various industries and is a stock holder in practically every industry operated in Rocky Mount by stock companies. He is director in a large number of our industries and Vice-President of the Rocky Mount Sash & Blind Co. It was largely due to his efforts that the Rocky Mount Hosiery Co. was organized, an institution that has been successful from a financial point of view and that has been of great benefit to the town. The Underwriters Fire Insurance Co. could not have chosen his superior, possibly not his peer, for president.

Of the other three officers reference is made elsewhere to two of them, Messrs. J. C. Braswell and W. S. Wilkinson. Mr. T. J. Hackney the Vice President, is a member of the firm of Hackney Bros. He is a man who has made a success in a business way and is highly respected for his high sense of honor in all his dealings. Messrs. Wilkinson, Bulluck & Co. are the general agents of this company and Mr. W. S. Wilkinson, who is manager of the above named company, is the underwriter, for which position his twelve years of experience as local underwriter has fully equipped him. As before stated a fuller reference is made to him in the write up for Messrs. Wilkinson, Bulluck & Co.

Handsome new quarters have been rented for the company in the new Planters Bank Building, a picture of which is shown elsewhere. They will occupy these quarters about January 1st, 1907.



View Showing Main Mill Building and Seed House, Looking North.



Hull House and Fertilizer Factory Looking South.

SOUTHERN COTTON OIL COMPANY.

The plant at Rocky Mount known and owned by The Southern Cotton Oil Co., had its inception in the enterprise of several business men of Rocky Mount, who in the year 1900 organized what was then known as the Rocky Mount Oil and Fertilizer Co. These men purchased a conveniently located site near the town and erecting the necessary buildings thereon and equipping it modernly began the manufacture of fertilizers and cotton seed oil, etc.

The advantages of its location and many promises it afforded in the way of paying handsome dividends to the stockholders induced its purchase by the Southern Cotton Oil Co. in 1901 and its subsequent incorporation into the system of factories operated by them. With the change of ownership and advantage of more capital for development, new buildings were added, machinery installed and put in operation, so that the plant quickly took front rank in the great mill system conducted by the Southern Cotton Oil Co.'s organization.

The management of the concern has ever been in the most thorough sympathy with the people of the town and the country around it. The institution was founded entirely by Southern capital and officered by Southern men. In common with other milling plants of the same corporation it has accomplished wonders and demonstrated the wisdom and executive ability of its managers and board of directors. The spirit and aim of its policy has been not only



Mr. J. H. Westbrook, Manager,

to earn dividends for its stockholders, but to cultivate the good will and friendship of the people, to aid in the development of the country and lend a helping hand to other enterprises, pursuing the broad policy that real and lasting success can be achieved only by rendering service to others.

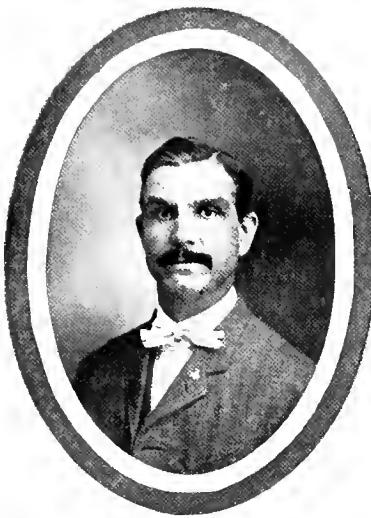
The organization own their own refineries, soap factories, fertilizer plants, batting and mattress factories. By this means so far as they are concerned, they control the situation as they manufacture all the bi-products of cotton seed without the intervention of middlemen or independent factories. This economic method enables them to get the best and fullest results at a minimum of expense and directly enables them to go on the market and pay the farmers or cotton seed men the very highest price for what they wish to buy.

Mr. John H. Westbrook is the manager of the Rocky Mount branch of the Southern Cotton Oil Co. He took charge in January, 1902.

Mr. Westbrook is a native of Wilson County where he was born in 1874. He later lived in Goldsboro and went



Office and Ginnery Looking East.



MR. W. L. GROOM

Manager

the company would rebuild, a question in which all the people of our town who had the interest of the town at heart, had a great deal of interest in. It was finally determined to rebuild on even a larger and more magnificent scale. The business had out grown the old plant and it was decided to secure a new site just on the outskirts of Rocky Mount on the Nashville branch of the Coast Line. Here was erected and stands today, one of the most complete and modern equipped lumber plants in the South. While not the largest, it has a capacity of 40,000 feet in ten hours and by the superb arrangement of the buildings and modern machinery it is enabled to turn out the raw product into finished lumber at a minimum cost. The present plant consists of the latest and most modern improved band saw mill, the building being 36x132 feet a planing mill 72x132 feet which includes a band resaw with a capacity of 50,000 feet per day for turning out flooring, ceiling, weather boarding and finished lumber of all kinds;

a trim mill 48x144 feet, in which is made inside and outside finish of high grade; brick dry kilns fire proof, and two modern power plants of 500 horse power. The company has a railroad running from this mill in a northwesterly direction through Nash county, which, besides hauling logs to the mill also expects to haul freight and passengers. This is probably the only lumber plant in the south that takes a log from the stump and handles it in its entirety through the different processes necessary to finish it up for all kinds of inside trim, including grills, mantles, store fixtures of all descriptions, window and door frames, etc. Some of the finest inside work in the residences and stores of Eastern Carolina have been finished by this plant. The company owns a large amount of standing timber, sufficient to last them for a number of years, and they are constantly buying other tracts. The amount of benefit they have been, not only to Rocky Mount, but to all the territory which they have traversed, by paying out thousands of dollars for lumber and labor, is almost incalculable.

None of this could have been accomplished had an incompetent man been placed in charge of this great industry, and it is fitting that a brief sketch of his life be made. Mr. W. L. Groom was born in 1861 in New York State. His father was in the lumber business and Mr. Groom began under him to learn that business when very young. From this time until Feb. 1886, except what time he was attending school, he was engaged in the saw and shingle mill and rough lumber business. He was educated in the free schools of the State and completed a commercial course in the Allen's Business College of New York in 1881. At the age of twenty-four years in Feb. 1886 he started to learn the planing mill business as stationary engineer. Here he only remained five weeks when he was promoted as inspector and buyer of lumber in which position he remained two years. He was then promoted superintendent of the planing mill and wholesale shipping department. He gave up this in 1889 to take a position with a larger concern, being the Harris & McHenry Co. He remained with this firm for six years when Mr. Baker became a member. He stayed with this firm one year longer, when he came to Rocky Mount. Mr. Groom soon made himself popular with the business element of our city and they recognizing his fine business qualifications and moral character, elected him a member of the Board of Town Commissioners which is a high honor in Rocky Mount as it can be said without fear of being controverted that none but our best business men who have proven their worth and ability are elected to these positions. At the expiration of his first term he was re-elected and could easily have been again elected had not his large business interests forced him to give up the position. He is a member of the Masonic and Pythian fraternities, and a member of the Presbyterian church. Although there are great exactions on his time to attend to the large business of which he is at the head he always takes time to take an active interest and hand in anything pertaining to the betterment of the community in which he lives.



MR. J. W. MATTHEWS.



MATTHEWS, WEEKS & COMPANY.

The members are Messrs. G. T. Matthews, W. G. Weeks and J. W. Matthews. The business was originally conducted by Messrs. G. T. and J. W. Matthews under the firm name of J. W. Matthews, until 1902, when, in order to enlarge the scope of the business, Mr. W. G. Weeks was taken in as a partner. The same stand on West Main Street was used by the new firm until the following year when the constantly increasing business necessitated larger quarters. They then erec'ed the large and commodious building on East Main Street, which they now occupy, a picture of which is shown above. Here they have their own side-track running in the rear of the building, enabling them to handle more readily the large freight shipments incident to the business. This is one of the strongest firms



MR. W. G. WEEKS.



MR. J. C. ROBERTSON, Bookkeeper

financially in Rocky Mount.

Mr. G. T. Matthews, the senior member of the firm, is one of the pioneer business men of the city, and by his diligence and constant application to business has amassed considerable wealth. He is a man of unusually sound judgment and business ability and has been quite a factor in the growth of the business.

Mr. W. G. Weeks gained his first experience in this line of business at Spring Hope, N. C., where he conducted a similar business with much success for a number of years. He has charge of the shipping trade, canvassing the surrounding towns weekly in the interest of the business. He is eminently qualified for this work and has very materially increased the volume of the business by his efforts. He has a host of strong friends and customers throughout this section.

Mr. J. W. Matthews has the inside management of the business and to his efforts can be attributed to a large extent the phenomenal growth of the business. He is one of the younger generation of business men of Rocky Mount and is universally popular.

Besides the members of the firm they have two especially competent employees in Mr. J. C. Robertson, book-keeper, and Mr. H. R. Hales, shipping clerk. Some idea of the large amount of business done by Matthews, Weeks & Co. can be gained from the fact that Mr. Robertson recently resigned a lucrative position as Assistant Cashier of The Bank of Rocky Mount to take charge of their books. He is said to be one of the fastest and most competent accountants in the city.

Mr. Hales has been connected with the business for the past three years, during which time he has rendered efficient and valuable service. After January 1st, he will go in business elsewhere for himself. He will be succeeded by Mr. Ed. Purvis, of Tarboro, who is a very capable man and well qualified for the position.

The firm does a large business in Rocky Mount and the surrounding territory and carries a complete stock of everything pertaining to an up-to-date wholesale grocery business. They handle a great many specialties, the chief among which is the famous Rob Roy Flour which is unexcelled as a high grade flour. Having unlimited capital, Messrs. Matthews, Weeks & Company are enabled to buy their stock in large quantities, thus giving the trade the lowest market figures on everything handled by them.

This firm is thoroughly entrenched as a permanent institution, having built their large business by prompt service and square dealing and with their progressive spirit will, no doubt, keep pace with the town in its rapid growth.



MR. T. O. DRAPER.



INTERIOR VIEW OF STORE OF DRAPER & DANIEL.

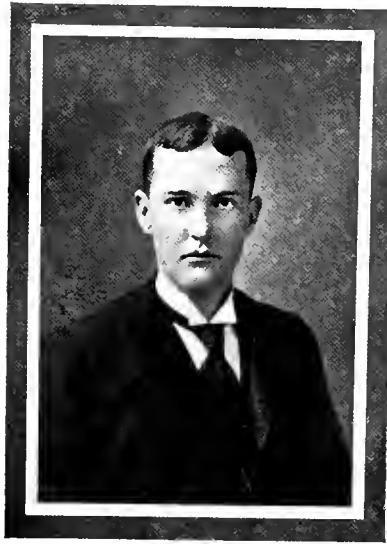
DRAPER AND DANIEL.

This firm is composed of Mr. T. O. Draper and John H. Daniel. Before forming a co-partnership each gained a thorough knowledge of his vocation by experience in modern stores of the dry goods and general mercantile trade. They started business at their present location on Tarboro Street in September, 1905. Their cleverness and courteous treatment of customers, and having the right goods at right prices, gained them at once a large patronage which has enabled them to add constantly to their lines and, now, when anyone wants anything usually to be found in an up-to-date establishment, they can be almost sure of finding it in their large and well selected stock. They carry a full line of dry goods, clothing, dress goods, novelties, etc. Two cleverer business men could hardly be found anywhere.



MR. JOHN H. DANIEL.

The Bank of Rocky Mount.
The Oldest, Strongest and Largest Financial Institution
In The City



Mr. THOS. H. BATTLE, President.



Mr. L. F. TILLERY, Cashier.

The Bank of Rocky Mount has a larger capitalization than any other institution in the town ; not only that, but it is one of the pioneer institutions of the town and, without doubt, one of the most important organizations in the



INTERIOR VIEW OF THE BANK OF ROCKY MOUNT

city. The moving spirits of this organization were Mr. Thos. H. Battle and Mr. L. F. Tillery, who are today president and cashier, respectively. The organization was formed January 1st, 1889, with \$25,000.00 capital. Mr. S. E. Westray, at that time one of the wealthiest citizens of this section and who was related to the present president, was elected president, and Mr. Thos. H. Battle, vice-president, and who, as a matter of fact, was the active manager of the affairs of the infant institution. Mr. L. F. Tillery was elected cashier. At that time there were only three stockholders, Mr. Westray, Mr. Battle and Mr. Tillery. At this time too, the town did not have one-tenth of the inhabitants which it has today, and the formation of a bank was really considered a venture. Mr. Westray died in the year 1894 and Mr. Battle was elected president. The stock owned by Mr. Westray was bought by Mr. R. H.

Ricks, (who, as all citizens conversant with the affairs of this community know, has made a success in everything that he has touched) and Mr. J. R. Ruffin, who at that time was manager of the Rocky Mount Cotton Mills, and a very fine business man. Mr. R. H. Ricks was elected Vice President in the place of Mr. Battle, who was elected President.

At the very beginning of its career the management of the bank recognized the fact that it was good business policy to give support to all the industries that would build the town larger. As one evidence of this fact we point to the tobacco market. Had it not been for the liberal backing given by this institution to this industry, which is today one of the most important of this section and community, it would not be in existence at the present time. The bank gave its support at a time when the market was struggling to obtain a solid foundation. Ever since it has given aid to every industry that would be of benefit to the town where safe and sane business principles would admit. The bank was first located in a one story brick building on the site that was previously occupied by Josh Taylor's barber shop.

When Mr. Ruffin's health broke down he retired as one of the directors of the bank and as the town at that time was beginning its rapid growth, it was decided to increase the capital stock to \$40,000.00, allowing the patrons of the bank to take all the increased stock and thereby share in the profits. The bank building was in 1892 enlarged to two stories. This building was burned in the Masonic Temple Opera House fire on March 1st, 1894, and the present substantial and commodious brick building was erected to take its place. The new building is of two stories, the first floor being occupied by the bank and the second by the Telephone Company. There are three offices connected on the north of the bank building, which are owned by the bank. The inside equipment of the bank is of an especially fine quality and ideally arranged for the convenience of the handling of its business. The officers and stock holders of this bank have since the beginning of the town's tremendous growth, always been on the alert to not only hold and forward that growth, but to keep its business commensurate with it.

Realizing that it was a good business policy to give some of their patrons an opportunity to secure an interest in the business that they were helping to make it was decided at a meeting of the stock holders a few months ago to increase the capital stock to \$100,000.00 and to pay the then present stock holders a dividend of 50 per cent., reducing the profits so that the book value of the stock would be worth \$125.00 per share, leaving it to the discretion of the officers as to the placing of the new stock. It was an easy matter to sell the new stock. It was simply a matter of judgment on the part of the officers to place it where it was calculated to do the bank the most good. This makes the present capital and surplus \$125,000.00, which as before stated is the biggest financial institution in Rocky Mount.

The present stock holders and directors are numbered among our very foremost business men. The directors are Messrs. Thos. H. Battle, R. H. Ricks, T. J. Hackney, Dr. W. H. Whitehead, S. L. Arrington, G. T. Matthews, A. P.

Thorpe, E. G. Muse, J. D. Bulluck, Geo. J. Hales, D. J. Rose, and L. V. Bassett.

The bank of Rocky Mount is an institution that is interwoven with the success of the town from the very beginning of its emerging from a mere village to a good size city, and the present president, Mr. Thomas H. Battle was not only the moving spirit in the organization of this institution, but has been largely instrumental in practically every movement that has been inaugurated in the enlargement of the town. Unquestionably, he is the foremost citizen of the town today, for he has done more for the moral and industrial betterment of the town than any other one citizen. He is a man that would be bound to be of great aid and benefit to any community in which he was thrown, and he holds the confidence and respect of the people of this community for integrity and ability in a larger sense than any other citizen. He was born in Raleigh in 1860 and is a son of Dr. Kemp P. Battle, the former president of the State University and at present professor of history in that institution. Mr. Thos. H. Battle received his education in the Raleigh high schools and graduated at the State University. He graduated at law under Dr. Manning in 1882 and was licensed that year. He settled in Tarboro in December of that year and was elected solicitor of the Inferior Court within two weeks after his location there. He remained in Tarboro for eighteen months when he removed to Rocky Mount for the practice of his profession. Upon the retirement of Mr. Ruffin as treasurer of the Rocky Mount Cotton Mills he was elected treasurer of that business and today he is the active mental force behind that big industry. That, in connection with his duties as president of the bank, forced him to give up the practice of law. He was elected mayor of Rocky Mount in 1886, which position he held for ten consecutive years. It would seem that he was born to make a success of whatever he turned his attention to for truly it is an accepted fact by all who are at all conversant with local conditions, that he made a mayor that gave as near as could be an ideal government, and the present excellent municipal government is largely responsible for the standard that he set in the administration of the town's affairs. With the exception of two years Mr. Battle has been a member of the board of Town Commissioners since 1896, and he gives the town's affairs the same careful attention and scrutiny that is habitual with him in all his undertakings. His capacity for directing the management of affairs is extraordinarily large. To give some idea of the immense operations under his active direction we mention that he is president of the Rocky Mount Savings & Trust Co., the Rocky Mount Homestead & Loan Association, and the Rocky Mount Insurance & Realty Co., and as before mentioned the real active manager of the Rocky Mount Cotton Mills. He is chairman of the Graded School Board, a work in which he takes a deep interest. At the beginning of the school it was necessary to have about \$1,600.00 for the finishing of the present school building and he gave half this amount, the other half being given by Mr. R. H. Ricks of whom mention is made elsewhere in this book. Mr. Battle is a member of the Episcopal Church but not any fraternal orders. He is a great lover of home and takes great delight in the society of his wife and children. He was first married to Miss Bettie Davis of Wilson, from which union there was one son, Mr. Kemp. He was married in 1895 to Miss Sallie Hyman and at present they

have what might be considered an ideal home on Church Street. From this union there are two children, Hyman and Ethel.

Mr. L. F. Tillery, the cashier, was born in 1864 in Rocky Mount. He was the only son of Dr. R. C. Tillary, who was one of the first mayors of this city. He first earned his livelihood by telegraphing, his initial experience in that line being with the A. C. L. railroad. He later became manager of the Western Union office at New Bern. He came back to Rocky Mount in 1887 and engaged in the brokerage business and the buying of cotton. Later as before stated he took a hand in the organization of the bank and became its cashier, which position he has held ever since. When the bank's business became so large that it was necessary to elect an assistant cashier, Mr. Tillary gave up the active work usually performed by the cashier in smaller banking institutions and was placed in charge of what might be termed a more responsible work for which his natural abilities and long experience have equipped him to an unusually high degree. He enjoys a wide reputation in this section for thorough integrity and courteous demeanor towards all who have business to transact with him. Through his investments from time to time, placed with excellent judgment, he has accumulated considerable wealth. He was married in 1887 to Miss Minnie Vyne and they have two children, Mr. Jarvis and Miss Annie. They have a finely appointed brick residence on Main Street. Mr. Tillary is a member of the Presbyterian Church and takes an active interest in the work of that denomination. He is also a member of the Pythian fraternity.

Upon the recent resignation of Mr. J. C. Robertson as assistant cashier, Mr. Edward Bachelor was elected to fill the vacancy and will take charge of his duties in that capacity January 1st, next. He is at present a member of the firm of Ricks & Bachelor at Greensboro. He is a native of Nash County and was formerly with the Bank of Nashville. He also held a position as bookkeeper with the Arrington-Bissette Co. His long and varied experience has eminently qualified him for the new position to which he has been elected. He is a very popular man among all who know him and of pleasing personality.

Mr. Jack Bennett, who holds a position as bookkeeper of the bank, is one of the most popular young men in the city. His youthfulness was the only bar to his being elected assistant cashier upon the resignation of Mr. Robertson. He received his education at the Rocky Mount graded schools and entered the bank as collector. His natural antitude for the work, and his unusually high order of intelligence has enabled him to gain a thorough knowledge of the bank business in practically all its details, and today he is fully equipped to fill any clerical position in the bank.

Mr. John Tracy was recently chosen as collector. He is a son of Mr. M. J. Tracy. He takes pride in doing his duties promptly and well and will no doubt rise in his chosen work.

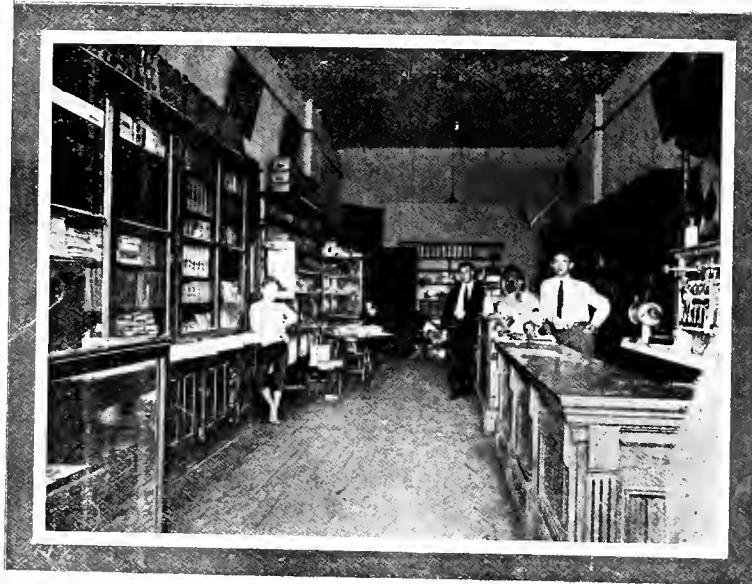
Miss Rachel Soden recently accepted a position as stenographer and mailing clerk for the bank and like all the employes of this institution, fills her position with signal ability.

It would not be fitting to close this article without speaking of the deposits of the bank. Every one in Rocky Mount knows that the average money on deposit in this institution is far larger than any other bank in the city. At the time of writing this article the deposits were \$268,000.00 and no doubt the deposits will soon range over the \$300,000.00 mark.



BANK OF ROCKY MOUNT BUILDING

D. J. ROSE & CO., Contractors and Builders.



INTERIOR VIEW JNO. P. EDWARD'S BOOK AND STATIONERY STORE,

Magazines, Newspapers and Periodicals of all kinds. Stationery, Office and School Supplies, Cigars and Tobacco, Cold and Hot Drinks. Souvenir Postal Cards, showing best views of Rocky Mount, and Comic Cards of all kinds.

JNO. P. EDWARDS.

In Masonic Temple Building Next to Post Office.

This Book was printed in its entirety, including the cover,

By

Rocky Mount Record Job Office

Thoroughly Equipped for all Kinds of Printing. None but Competent Workmen Employed. High Quality of Work Guaranteed. Phone No. 71

ROCKY MOUNT INSURANCE & REALTY COMPANY.

The Rocky Mount Insurance and Realty Company is one of the most active and important institutions in our city. It was formed to take over and enlarge the scope of business operated under the firm name of Huffines & Davis. The present business was incorporated January 1st, 1906, with \$25,000.00 paid in capital. Mr. Thos. H. Battle was elected president, Mr. R. L. Huffines vice-president and general manager, Mr. R. B. Davis, Jr., secretary and treasurer and Mr. W. L. Thorpe attorney. The following directors were elected: Messrs. R. H. Ricks, W. L. Groom, J. M. Donan, Thos. H. Battle, T. J. Hackney, R. L. Huffines, Dr. W. H. Whitehead, J. T. Matthews, W. L. Petty, W. L. Thorpe, R. C. Hood; the latter of Greensboro, all the others being citizens of Rocky Mount.

It would be apparent at a glance to all who are familiar with local conditions, that the officers and directors are among our very foremost business men, and the same assertion will apply to the stockholders. As before stated, the present incorporation is the outgrowth of the business of Messrs. Huffines & Davis, and these two are at present the active managers of the details of the business. Mr. Huffines, the vice-president and general manager, is not only one of the most alert, but one of the best informed men in the State along all lines of insurance work. He is thoroughly conversant with the proper value of real estate. He is generally recognized as being one of the most sagacious and resourceful men, in business matters generally, in the city. He is the real originator of the present business, as he was conducting an insurance and real estate business before the firm of Huffines & Davis was formed. He was born in



OFFICES OF ROCKY MOUNT INSURANCE & REALTY COMPANY
are in this, the Bank of Rocky Mount Building.

Rockingham county in 1873, and located in Rocky Mount in 1893. He was married in 1898 to Miss Carrie Whitehead, daughter of Dr. W. H. Whitehead, who is a former president of the State Examining Board, and one of the most prominent physicians in the State. Mrs. Huffines is recognized as being one of the most estimable ladies in the city, and is especially active in church work. They have three unusually bright and intelligent children, Louise, Robt. L. Jr., and Sarah Elizabeth. They have a handsome home on the corner of Sunset Avenue and Franklin Street.

Mr. R. B. Davis, Jr., the secretary and treasurer, was born in Wilmington in 1872. He first began active business life in the railroad service, in which work he was engaged for sixteen years. In 1894 he resigned his position as agent at South Rocky Mount and bought half interest in the business of Mr. R. L. Huffines. Mr. Davis is an all-round business man, and his fine business qualities are generally recognized. At the present writing he is president of the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce, an organization which has been of very material benefit to the city.

The firm has three valued employees in Miss Maud Phillips as stenographer, Mr. J. A. Smith as bookkeeper and Mr. Lucas as manager of the rental department. The firm has plenty of capital to handle their large and extensive business. Being thoroughly conversant with the value of real estate and being in touch with all purchasers, they are enabled to get the proper value of property which is placed in their hands for sale. The firm does a general insurance business of all forms and not only go after business in nearby territory, but practically all over Eastern Carolina. They make somewhat of a specialty in writing business for lumber companies and do a large volume of business for such industries even at very distant places from this city. The thorough knowledge that the manager, Mr. Huffines, has gained on this special line of work makes him able to write the proper kind of policy at the proper rate for the mutual protection of policy holders and companies. They are general agents for Eastern Carolina for the Maryland Casualty Co., and place considerable business for them. They recently added a rental department, placing in charge of that department Mr. Lucas, as above mentioned, and no doubt will soon build up a large business for this department as has been their custom in all their lines.

SORSBY'S HARDWARE STORE.

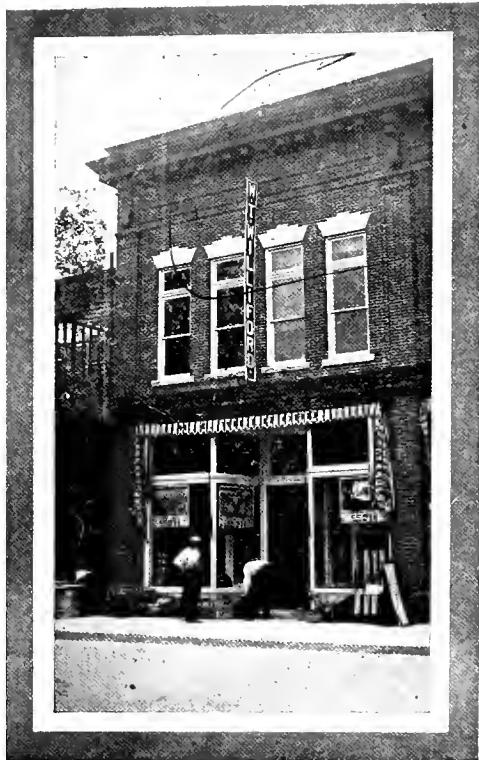


INTERIOR VIEW OF SOBSBY'S HARDWARE STORE.

Mr. J. R. Sorsby's is the oldest hardware store in Rocky Mount. He first started business in a store on Main Street, which was torn down to give room for the new building, in course of erection for the Planters Bank. Here he did business for 25 years. He removed from there about the first of the present year to the store vacated by the Rocky Mount Supply Co., No. 106 North Main Street. He carries a full line of everything usually found in a hardware store. He has made a large success in his business, and accumulated considerable wealth, though there has probably never been an accusation against him for other than "square dealing."

He has an unusually large circle of friends, who highly esteem him for his rugged honesty and companionable demeanor.

Mr. Sorsby has associated with him in the conducting of the business, his step-son, Mr. William Williford, who is quite a genius in window dressing and other methods to advertise the store. He is of great value in the conducting of the business, to which his natural ability especially adapts him and in which he takes a lively interest.



MR. W. T. WILLIFORD'S STORE.
D. J. Rose & Co., Contractors and Builders

MR. W. T. WILLIFORD.

While not an old man by any means, Mr. W. T. Williford is one of the oldest merchants in Rocky Mount, having been engaged in the mercantile business for twenty-two years. Not only that—he is today recognized as being one of the best and most reliable of the business men of the city.

He first began business in a wooden structure on the corner of Washington and Tarboro Streets. He later moved into another wooden structure on Tarboro Street, one door below Griffin's Drug Store, which he later tore down and replaced with a brick building. Here he did business for six years, his volume of business increasing each year until he found the facilities of that store too small to accommodate his business. The present year he bought from Mr. D. J. Rose a handsome two story brick building on Washington Street, adjoining the Bulluck building, where he is at present located with probably the largest stock carried by any individual merchant in the town. It is impossible to here enumerate his stock, but hardly anything in the grocery, dry goods or general mercantile line but can be found at his store. He has accumulated considerable wealth, but in such a manner that he has retained the confidence and respect of all with whom he has had dealings. In fact, a large portion of his success is undoubtedly due to his always "square dealing."

HARRY ABRAM

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

REPRESENTING

N. Jacobi Hardware Co.,

Wholesale Factory Agents

WILMINGTON, N. C.

OF ALL KINDS AND

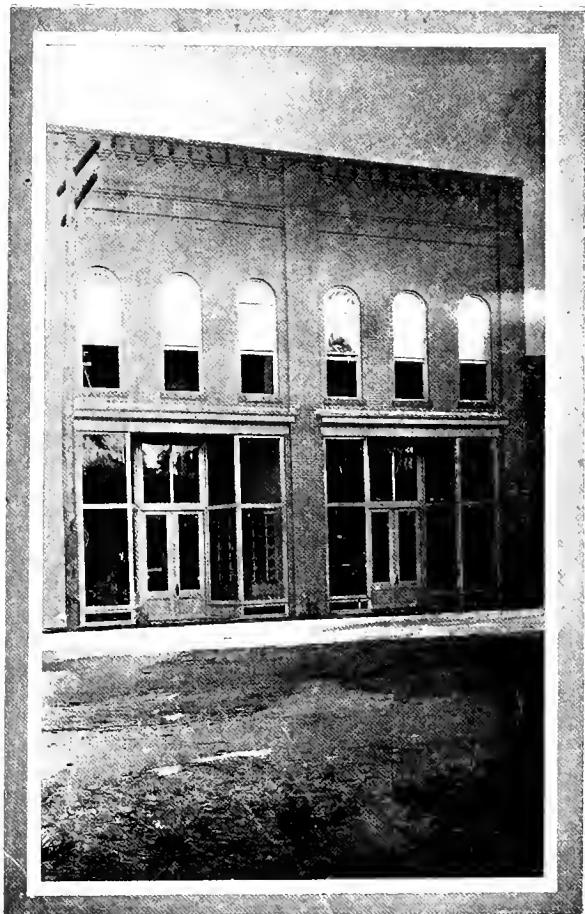
*Printing
Book Binding*

IF You Want a First-Class Piece of Work

TRY

The Record Office

BULLUCK, BYRD & COMPANY.



Building occupied by BULLUCK, BYRD & CO., 115 Washington Street. Picture taken before building was completed.

This firm is composed of three members, Messrs. W. A. Bulluck, D. K. Styles and G. Bryan Byrd. All three had considerable experience in the furniture business before forming a co-partnership, and with their thorough knowledge their success was assured from the start. They first opened up with not a very large stock of goods in the Barnes building, a wooden structure on East Washington street, on January 1st, 1906. They met with great success from the start, and in a short while crowded their store with goods to such an extent that it became necessary for them to obtain larger quarters to handle their increasing business. Mr. T. P. Braswell was constructing a large and handsome brick store on West Washington street, and these young men rented the first floor of one of the two stores of the building and all of the second floor over both stores, moving in September 1st, 1906, where they now have a large and complete stock of everything in the furniture line and in fact practically everything that goes to equip a room or the largest and finest appointed home.

They have added an undertaking department to their business, and have a full line of coffins, caskets and all undertakers' supplies, including the costliest hearse in the city.

Three clever, more alert or more reliable young men are not in business in Rocky Mount, and their business has a bright future before it. They are located at No. 115 Washington street.

MR J. D. ODOM.



STABLES AND FEED STORE OF MR. J. D. ODOM.



STORES OF MR. J. D. ODOM AT 110, 112 & 114 NORTH SUNSET AVENUE

The above pictures show the three stores of Mr. J. D. Odom, located at 110, 112 and 114 North Sunset avenue, and his feed store and stables on South Sunset Avenue, just opposite his stores. He deals in horses, mules, vehicles, harness, feedstuffs, farming implements, furniture, fertilizers and general merchandise.

Unquestionably, he is one of the best business men in North Carolina today and, not by luck, but through the sheer force of his acute business genius, he accumulated considerable wealth.

D. J. ROSE & COMPANY.

The members of this firm are Messrs. D. J. Rose and S. S. Toler. Unquestionably they do the largest contracting and building business in Eastern Carolina, and probably the largest in North Carolina. This has been brought about by the high grade of work they do and the expeditious manner in which they fulfill contracts. Their reputation is one to be envied by any firm. The writer of this article heard a first-class business man, who had given the firm a contract for a \$20,000.00 store, say that he would not give it to any other contractor, for he knew that D. J. Rose & Company would put first-class material in its construction where the contract called for it. The sentiment expressed in that assertion is the one entertained by all people in this section, and elsewhere where the firm is known.

It would be impossible here to enumerate the buildings erected by this firm, but we mention a few of the prominent ones in Rocky Mount, viz: The Masonic Temple building, Graded School, Cambridge Hotel, Bulluck Building, Farmers Brick Warehouse, Coast Line Shops, Matthews, Weeks & Co., Hales & Edwards, Mr. Mr. J. A. Taylor's residence and a number of other buildings. He has under contract at the present time, in Rocky Mount, the Coast Line depot, Cochran's store, Blount's store, H. E. Brewer's store, and a large coal structure for the Coast Line Railroad.

The firm has a number of valuable and competent foremen and a large number of workmen, whose good will they have to an unusual degree, because of the fair and square treatment accorded them. The firm is thoroughly enabled to handle a large number of contracts at the same time, and they are constantly doing considerable work, not only in North Carolina, but in other States. No job is too big for them to handle in a creditable manner.



ROCKY MOUNT FURNITURE CO.

THE LEADING
FURNITURE
HOUSE
IN
EASTERN
CAROLINA

BED-ROOM
SUITS,
DINING-ROOM
AND HALL
FURNITURE

CRADLES COUCHES LAMPS

CARPETS, RUGS, SHADES, CURTAINS, DRAPERIES, CHINA.
ETC. ETC..



"I CLAR FORE GRACIOUS DAT BABY 'NIVER TUCK SICH A FRESHIN' NAP EN WAKED UP EN SICH A GOOD HUMOR
FORE DE FOLKS GOT DIS CRIB FROM DAT ROCKY MOUNT FURNITURE CO. WHAR DAY GITS ALL DESE FURNITURES EN THINGS."

CARRIES THE
LARGEST
AND
BEST STOCK
OF
HOUSEHOLD
FURNISHINGS
TO BE
FOUND
—
WE SELL
SUITS
FROM \$10 00
TO \$150 00

THE ROCKY MOUNT FURNITURE COMPANY.

The Rocky Mount Furniture Company is not only the oldest furniture business in the city, but it carries the largest and handsomest assortment of stock. The business was started in 1896 by Capt. J. D. Bulluck. It was conducted from its beginning by Mr. Jas. P. Bulluck, nephew of the original proprietor, who, after two years, bought the business from his uncle, and he has successfully conducted it for the past eight years as proprietor, constantly adding to his line of goods and also doing a larger volume of business each year. He carries an unusually high grade of furniture and other things that go to furnish a home.

He not only sells to the trade in Rocky Mount and adjacent territory but does a considerable shipping trade to

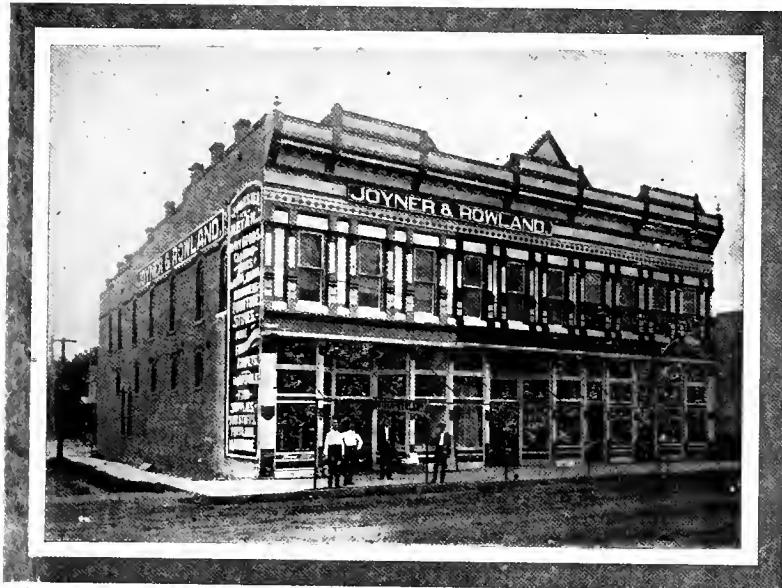


MR. JAS. P. BULLOCK, Proprietor.

nearby towns. One feature that attracts such trade to him is that he pays the freight and guarantees safe delivery of all goods.

Mr. Bulluck is a son of Mr. R. R. Bulluck of Ringwood. He was born in Halifax County in 1878. He moved to Rocky Mount in 1896 to take charge of his present business as above stated. He was married in 1900 to Miss Mary Avent, the beautiful and cultured daughter of Mr. T. V. Avent. They have two children, Mary Elaine and Jas. P., Jr. They have a handsome home on The Falls Road, one of the most desirable residential portions of the city. Mr. Bulluck is a member of the M. P. church and the Pythian fraternity.

JOYNER & ROWLAND.



mercantile interest are interested to some extent in farming and also are the local representative of A. Sprunt & Son cotton buyers.

No better illustration is afforded in Rocky Mount of what can be accomplished by intelligence, energy and unswerving honesty than the history of this firm. The two members are regarded as among our most useful and enterprising citizens, and their great business as the legitimate profits of energetic and honest endeavor.

Occupying a prominent and important place among the mercantile establishments of Rocky Mount, is the large general merchandise establishment of Joyner & Rowland, corner of South Main and Hill streets. Their two stores in the handsome "Rowland Building" are large, neatly arranged and modernly equipped. They are leaders among those who are engaged in furnishing farmers and besides do a very large and ever increasing local business.

The firm is composed of two young men, Mr. W. D. Joyner, a native of Nash and Mr. Thos. C. Rowland, of Halifax County. Mr. Rowland for some years was in the employ of his brother, the late S. L. Rowland, Mr. Joyner for part of the time being employed at same place as bookkeeper. After the death of S. L. Rowland, they bought his stock and business from his estate and begun their present successful business career. They are large owners of some of the city's most valuable real estate, what is known as the "candy store" and the two brick stores on Main street occupied by them being among others. The concern, besides their mer-



The Plate Glass Counters, shown in the above view, are Indispensable Silent Salesmen. They are made by the Columbus Show Case Co., Columbus, Ga.



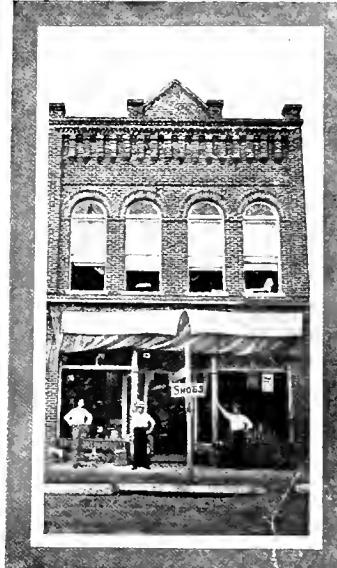
The picture upon this page shows an interior view of the first floor of Mr. W. D. Cochran's Store, Rocky Mount, N. C. Mr. Cochran carries the largest line of Gent's Furnishings of any store in the city. He is having erected a large, and one of the most modern stores in the State, and will, after January 1st, 1907, occupy his new place. His good judgment of merchandise and skillful buying has so increased his business as to necessitate the new building.





Interior View of Mr. T. A. Davenport's Store.

The store of Mr. T. A. Davenport is located at No. 132 Washington street, his phone No. being 270. He occupies the first and second floors of the building, which gives him plenty of room for his immense stock, which consists of every thing in general merchandise, such as clothing, shoes, hats, dry goods, heavy and fancy groceries, etc. Mr. Davenport came to Rocky Mount in 1900 and worked as an employe for other stores until 1903, when he went in business for himself. He is a young man possessing alert and progressive business ideas and has a bright future before him in the growing city of Rocky Mount.



Outside View of Mr. T. A. Davenport's Store.

HALES & EDWARDS.



This firm is one of the most substantial in the city. Its members are Mr. Geo. J. Hales and Mr. Geo. S. Edwards, both of them possessing business ability of an exceptionally high order, which is proved by the fact that they have built from a very modest beginning, one of the largest businesses in Rocky Mount. They formed a co-partnership in 1892, beginning in a very small brick building on Washington street erected by Mr. R. D. Armstrong and now occupied temporarily by Mr. F. D. Woodruff's jewlery store. They shortly afterwards moved to the Braswell building, a wooden structure on the corner of Main and Hill streets, which gave about double the room of their previous location. But their business continued to increase until it became necessary to have larger quarters to handle it. So they bought land and gave a contract for their present mammoth and handsome large brick, two story building, with a large basement underneath, located on the corner of Main and Marygold streets, a picture of which is

shown above. They also have just across the street from this building a large warehouse. To give an idea of their increase in business we will state that their present main building contains 20,000 square feet of floor space and the warehouse about 3,000, giving them in all about 23,000 feet of floor space for the storing and handling of their immense stock. This is about eight times the floor space they had in the building in which they first began business. They also have a side track running adjacent to both the warehouses and the main building, which allows them to handle their freight in the most economical manner.

They carry everything usually carried by large modern wholesale grocery firms and also handle all kinds of heavy building material. They make a specialty of handling all kinds of canned goods, buying in such large lots that they are able to give the very lowest prices. They have plenty of capital to buy everything in sufficient quantities direct from the manufacturers and obtain the lowest prices and thereby sell to the merchants at the lowest



GEORGE J. HALES.

rices. To give an idea of the large quantities they buy at a time of their various articles mention that several times during the past twelve months they received tobacco in car load lots. saying that such a firm buys their heavy groceries in car load lots. They also buy their canned something very seldom done by a wholesale firm in a city the size of Rocky Mount.

Mr. Geo. J. Hales was born in Wilson County in 1861 and came to Rocky Mount in 1890 to work in stock we lines with whom he stayed until he went into his present business. He has been twice married. Mr. J. W. Edwards without goes without lots in car lots, as Miss Eva Thomas, and they have a palatial home on the corner of Marygold and Raleigh Streets.

Mr. Geo. S. Edwards is a son of the late P. E. Edwards. He was born in 1868 and was married in 1894 to Miss Estavia Sadler. They also have a handsome residence on the corner of Tarboro and Lexington Streets. Mr. Edwards

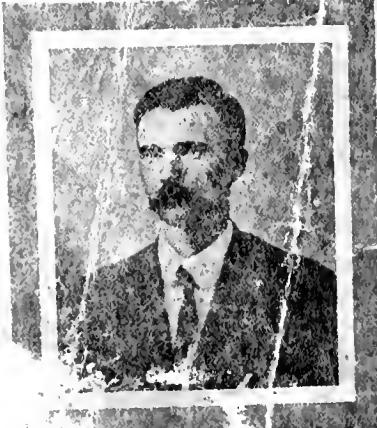
as recently elected a member of the Board of Town Commissioners, considered quite an honor in Rocky Mount. The firm has three valued employees in Messrs. R. C. Brake, their traveling salesman, F. Y. Arrington, shipping clerk, and H. W. Cutchin, bookkeeper.



GEORGE S. EDWARDS.



Residence of Mr. W. C. Fuller.

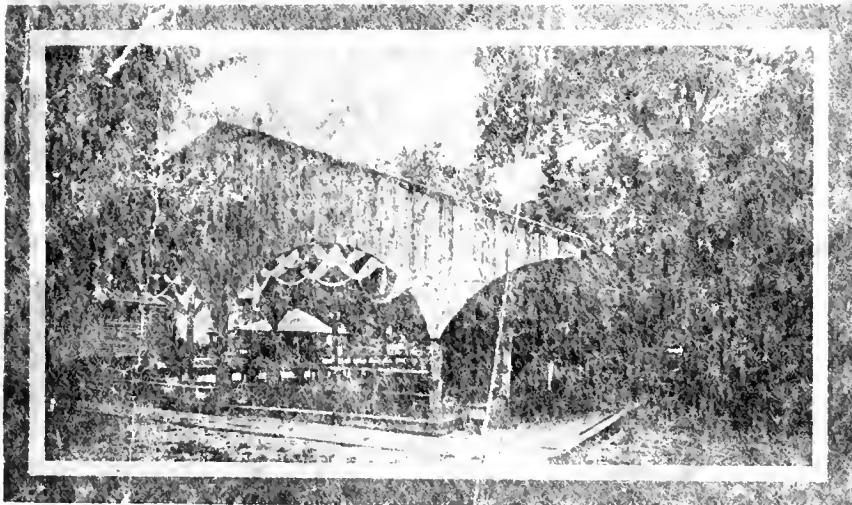


Mr. W. C. Fuller.

Mr. W. C. Fuller is another of Rocky Mount's successful business men. He is a native of Franklin County, having been born near the historic town of Louisburg September 26th, 1872. His early life was spent on the farm. Always energetic and industrious he did not fail with the limited opportunities and entered the business of contracting homes of W. H. Hardison, Mrs. J. H. Powell, E. G. Williams and many others being evidence of his skill and ability. His success has been marked and profitable, the beautifuller's home built by himself is on Franklin street and is one of the very prettiest in that part of the city.

He is an earnest member of the Methodist church, faithful in the discharge of all obligations of good citizenship.

valuable citizens. He was married some few years ago to Miss Maggie Jones, the attractive daughter of Mr. D. B. Jones, one of our old and respected citizens. Mr. Fuller is in the full enjoyment of health and strength and is a credit to his race and to the town of Rocky Mount.



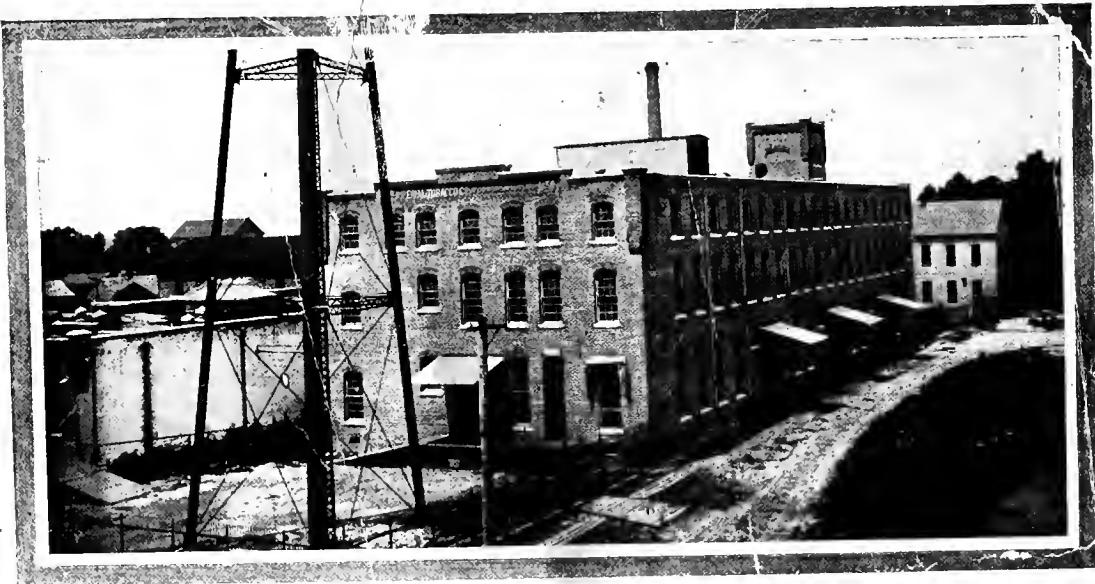
Pavillion at Oakland Park.



Scene along Main Street.

rprises, was its first President, and its membership has included and does include, the business and pro-
strength of the city. Its accomplishments have been very creditable, and it is felt now that the organization
on a still larger usefulness.

In the fall of 1910, it was decided that better results might be obtained and the organization prove more effective
the raised and a capable business manager employed for his whole time, who would maintain offices in the
ote his entire energy to the interests of the community as a city. This has been done.



Imperial Tobacco Company's Building, considered Absolutely fire proof and costing nearly \$100,000.

The officers of the Chamber of Commerce are now as follows: President Lewis C. Levy (of Braswell Tobacco); Vice-Presidents, R. B. Davis Jr., (Cashier First National Bank) F. A. Hampton, (Attorney at Law & Treasurer), J. W. Aycock (Cashier The Planters Bank); Business Manager, John L. Arrington; Committee, J. W. Hines, J. W. Aycock, W. S. Wilkinson, L. C. Levy.

The offices of the Chamber are on the Second Floor of The Planters Bank. A post and a full exhibit and explanation of what the city has to offer, for any one who makes enquiry. Free factory and other substantial inducements are offered to manufacturing enterprises. Address John L. Arrington, Business Manager.

The Schools of the City.

In the determined and unremitting building of the city, Rocky Mount citizens have not overlooked the fact that one of the corner-stones of the structure must be adequate educational facilities for their children. They have been the reverse of niggardly in this respect, and have responded nobly to every educational need. The public schools of the city are institutions in which every loyal Rocky Mounter takes the deepest pride.

In 1802, a graded school district was created that embraced within its limits, the whole town and suburbs, and a bond issue provided the necessary funds for the building and equipment. A brick building of fine proportions was erected, thoroughly modern in all of its appointments. The first year of the school, the students numbered about 350 with twelve teachers. The growth of the schools has been very rapid. In 1909 another building was erected in the opposite side of the town, much larger than the first. This new building is located on the corner of Marygold and Raleigh Sts., and has few superiors in size and beauty of architecture in North Carolina. A conservative estimate would fix the value of the public school buildings of the city at this time at nearly \$60,000.00. The past year, the number of students attending the white schools was approximately 1,000.

Nor have the people of Rocky Mount forgotten their duty to the colored children. A convenient and commodious building has been provided for the negroes, with a competent corps of teachers. The enrollment of the colored graded school the past year was nearly 400.

The officials that have in charge, the educational interests of the city, are as follows:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Thomas H. Battle, Chairman; L. V. Bassett, Secretary; J. C. Braswell, W. S. Wilkinson, T. T. Thorne, F. G. Graham, Geo. J. Hales, Geo. L. Parker, J. Q. Robinson. Superintendent, Prof. Z. B. McWhorter, (Vanderbilt University and Peabody Normal College); Principal, E. M. Highsmith, A.B., (University of North Carolina) Teachers. First Grade, Misses Nemmie G. Paris, and Bessie McDearman, and Mrs. C. Y. Thorne; Second Grade, Misses Martha Darden, Mary Lee Shine, Nellie Arrington; Third Grade, Misses Addie Paris,

Fourth Grade, Misses Fannie T. Anderson, Claude Bassett, Lulu H. Jackson; Fifth Grade, Misses Fannie Gorham and Mary Embra Morton; Sixth Grade, Miss Bessie C. Whitehead and Hattie Strachan; Seventh Grade, Misses Nannie E. Richardson and Lucy Dillard Hall; Eighth Grade Miss Margaret Redmond. Music Teachers, Misses Lois Threadgill and Constant Checkley. The teachers of the Colored Graded School are as follows: Principal, Prof. John W. Bird, and Geo. H. Porter, Nellie Pitt, Chanler Battle, Olivia Cobb, Fannie Halliday, and Mrs. Susie Baskerville.

The great care that is provided for Rocky Mount school interests, and the competency of the management, will be seen from the fact, that on the Board of Trustees of the Rocky Mount Graded Schools given above, are the presidents of three banks, two State Senators, the Chairman of the school board of Nash county, wholesale grocers and others of like standing. The able Superintendent, Prof. McWhorter is a native of Gatesville Ala., where Sherman started on his famous "march to the sea." Prior to coming here, Prof. McWhorter was for eight years, principal of the public schools of Mt. Olive, N. C. He received his education at Peabody Normal College and Vanderbilt University. The principal, Prof. Highsmith is a graduate of the University of North Carolina, and is thoroughly equipped for the high duties that have fallen on him. The corps of teachers is an admirable one, and they are rendering the highest service.

Rocky Mount is thus able to offer prospective residents, educational advantages for their children that should satisfy the most particular. And no fear need be entertained that as the city grows larger, the school facilities will keep step; for Rocky Mount is building for the future as well as the present.

The Twin Counties.

Rocky Mount is not a county seat, but it is the metropolis of two counties. Half in Nash county and half in Edgecombe county, the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad being the dividing line between the counties, Rocky Mount occupies a commanding position in both, by reason of wealth, intelligence, and population. The two counties referred to are rich in historical fame, as well as in their soil and the diversity of their industries. They have produced some of the

best and noblest sons of North Carolina, men who have made and written the state's history in War and Peace.

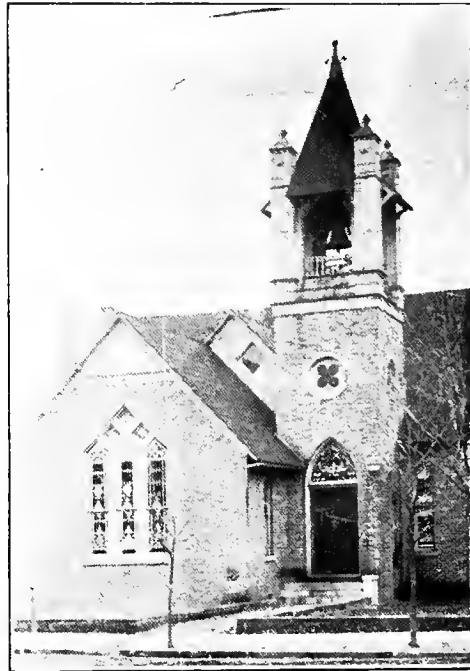
The sons of Nash and Edgecombe today are taking a large part in the political and industrial, as well as the moral development of the commonwealth. The weight of these twin-counties is always felt in legislation, and

of their people carries a potent influence in the councils of the political parties and the state.

Nashville is the county seat of Edgecombe, and Nash the county seat of Nash.



Episcopal Church



Methodist Protestant Church

Parks.

Rocky Mount is fully resolved that the future shall see large and beautiful playgrounds for the rest and recreation of her citizens during their spare hours. Oakland Park on Tarboro Street, covering almost a whole block has been established for years. Here, during the summer, the city is treated to vaudeville and comedy performances of a high order. The park also has an excellent dancing pavillion, and a good orchestra is employed during the whole season.

A new and extensive playground, that will be without a superior in the country is one of the things that will be brought to pass during the near future. This will be located on the picturesque River Tar which winds about the city on three sides.

Baseball.

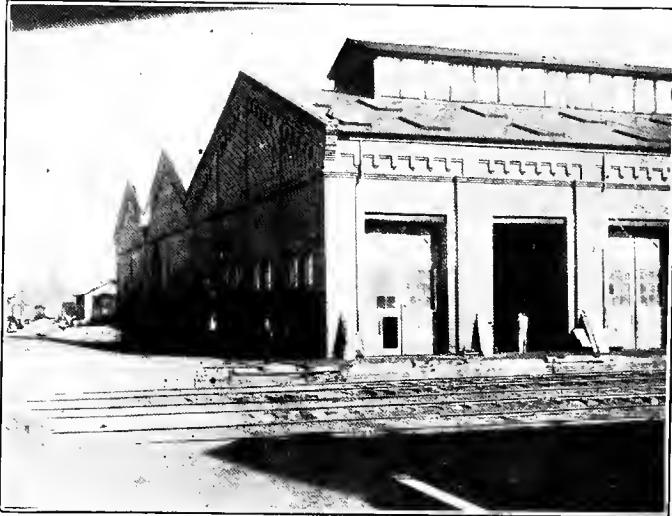
During the past few years, Rocky Mount has had professional baseball of Class D, the city being a member of the Eastern Carolina Baseball League, which includes the cities of Raleigh, Wilmington, Goldsboro, Wilson, Fayetteville and Rocky Mount. In 1910, Rocky Mount won the second series of the season, Fayetteville winning the first. The local baseball park is one of the best in Eastern Carolina.

The Rocky Mount Bar.

The Rocky Mount Bar is an unusually strong one, the dean being Ex-Judge Jacob Battle of the family of that name long distinguished in North Carolina history. Other members are Hon. Frank S. Spruill, Hon. L. V. Bassett, Hon. T. T. Thorne, Hon. W. L. Thorpe, and Messrs. J. P. Bunn, E. B. Grantham, Frank A. Hampton, Richard Fountain, Joseph B. Ramsey, James W. Keel, and Victor Barnhill.

A Great Railroad Centre.

Among the railroad centres of North Carolina, Rocky Mount ranks first. 38 passenger trains and 60 freight trains enter and leave the city every day. The number of freight cars handled to and from Rocky Mount reaches 2,000 per day. The engines and crews of the Atlantic Coast Line Trains are made up and changed here, and the



VIEWS AT SOUTH ROCKY MOUNT

Showing Two of The Many Buildings of The Coast Line at That Point

cars coming from different points are classified here and put in solid trains and sent on to their various destinations. Here also, at South Rocky Mount, are located, the great repair shops of the Atlantic Coast Line System, and the second largest yards in the United States.

| | |
|---|------|
| The approximate number of employees of this railroad system at Rocky Mount is as follows: | |
| South Rocky Mount Yard, in Transportation Department, including Yard Masters, Yard Conductors, Switchmen, Yard Clerks and others, | 241 |
| Number of employees in offices at Rocky Mount | 50 |
| Number of employees in shops | 1300 |
| Total | 1591 |

When it is considered that a large proportion of these 1591 employees are high-salaried officers and employees, and the remainder skilled workmen drawing high wages, it can readily be imagined what a large pay roll is here distributed by this railroad system. It amounts to approximately \$1,000,000.00 per year. Here are the general offices of the first division, headed by Mr. W. H. Newell, General Superintendent, the office of Mr. W. B. Darrow, Superintendent of Transportation, and of the division counsel and special attorneys. Here also are the offices of the Supt. of Motive Power, Road Foreman of Engines and General Car Inspector.

The New Passenger Station.

The railroad company has here its own electric lighting systems. The station is now one of the prettiest on the line, and the contract has just been let for a great enlargement and remodelling of the same.

The plans included in the contract, provide that the present passenger station shall be made two stories over its entire length, and that wings extending about fifty feet further west be added to each end of the building, and these will also be two stories in height. The present baggage room will be thrown into the waiting room and the new baggage room will be located in the North wing. The present mail and express rooms will be thrown into the other waiting room and the mail and express rooms placed in the South wing. The offices of the General Superintendent, Superintendent of Transportation, Engineer of Roadway, Supervisor of Buildings, Roadmasters and Special Attorneys will be on the second floor, in addition to the offices of the Superintendent, Train Master and Dispatchers of the Fayetteville District, which are already located there.

This remodeled building will be equipped with entirely new modern plumbing and steam-heating facilities. The plans include an umbrella shed of about 500 feet in length, and other minor improvements too numerous to mention. When this is completed, Rocky Mount's passenger station will have no superior in the state.



Bridge Over Falls—At Close Range



Bridge Over Falls—From A Distance

A. C. L. Relief Department Hospital.

The Relief Department of the A. C. L. R. R. Co. maintains a hospital at South Rocky Mount. This hospital was one of the first erected by the Relief Department, and its organization and methods of caring for its patients have reached a very high degree of efficiency. This hospital is always officered by skilful physicians and most efficient

nurses, and is under the direct supervision of Dr. G. G. Thomas, Chief Surgeon of the Relief Department. The hospital is only open to members of the Relief Department who are also employees of the Railroad Company but there are few members of the Relief Department who fail to avail themselves of its privileges when necessity arises.

The Railroad Y. M. C. A.

About a year ago the Railroad Company instituted an investigation into the working of the Railroad Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association and was so pleased with the results obtained that they appropriated funds for the erection of a modern Y. M. C. A. Building in this city. It will be located in the vicinity of the passenger station. Plans have all been made, the funds appropriated, the contract awarded, and the ground is being broken.

The proposed building will be about 110 feet frontage and about 90 feet depth in center which will be in the form of a "T". The basement will be fully concreted under the whole building and here will be located eight or ten modern shower baths, also other facilities. The basement will also accommodate bowling alleys. The first floor will have ample space for a large lobby in the center of the building and a restaurant, if desired, on one end, and a large reading room on the other and an auditorium in the rear of the center to seat about 300 people. The second floor will consist of single sleeping rooms and toilet rooms.

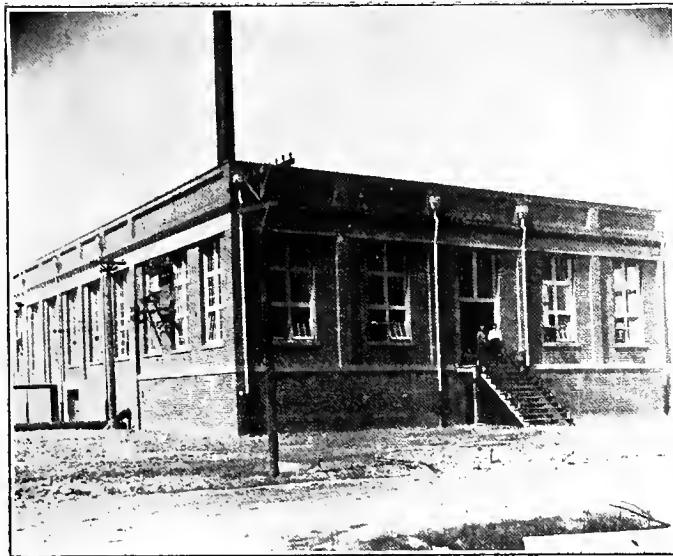
The entire building and grounds is deeded to the Railroad Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association by the Railroad Company and will be controlled exclusively by the Y. M. C. A. Directors. The Railroad Company will also pay the salary of the permanent Secretary.

Of the amount necessary for construction, citizens of Rocky Mount contributed \$5,000.00 and the Railroad Company \$30,000.00.

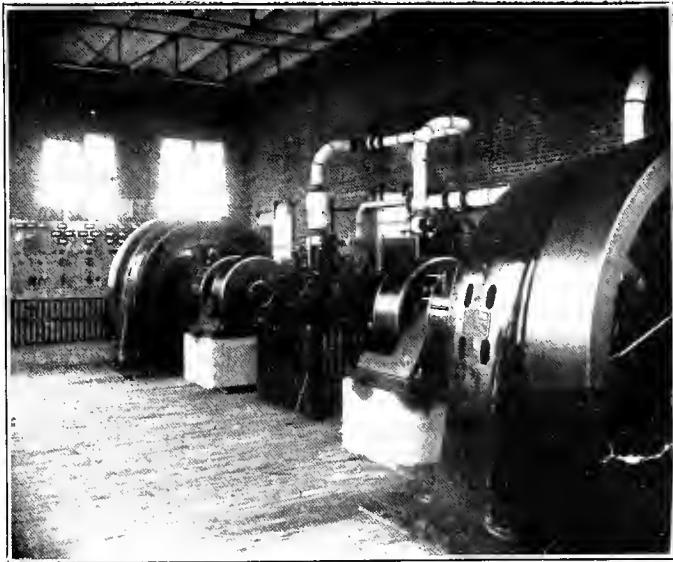
The Freight Depot.

The freight depot of the A. C. L. at Rocky Mount, is costly and capacious, admirably constructed for the handling of the immense volume of freight of the lusty young metropolis of the east.

Built but a few years ago, with thought to provide for the increase of business for many years, it is now however pushed to its capacity, and crowded hourly with merchandise coming to Rocky Mount from all parts of the world, and our own goods going to the uttermost parts. The Railroad Company has realized that it's hard to gauge the growth of Rocky Mount, and that only constant enlargement and construction can provide adequate facilities for her trade.



Electric Power and Water Station—Outside View



Inside View Electric Power and Water Station

Rocky Mount Public Works.

As has been said, Rocky Mount owns its water, sewerage and electric lighting system and works. And further, its electric lighting plant alone shows a profit at the end of the year just past of several thousand dollars, after deducting charges at full rate for all the current used by the city. So, as is the case with other departments, Rocky Mount

Public Works are conducted on sound business principles and methods. It should be considered, too that the profit above referred to has been made, while charging a light rate much less than that prevailing in other cities of similar size in this state.

The electric light plant and waterworks are located one mile west of the business section, on Tar River, which furnishes the water supply of the city. The plants were designed by a firm of Atlanta Engineers, and the installation of machinery and the construction of buildings, reservoirs, foundations etc., was looked after by Mr. A. S. Lyon, the present competent Superintendent of Public Works. The electric light plant is composed of two cross compound condensing four-valve engines of 340 H. P. each connected to two 200 K. W. Fort Wayne Alternating Current Generators of 2300 volts. It furnishes current for both street lighting and commercial purposes. In Sept. 1909, a day power circuit was started, which supplies a three-phase current for use in driving motors in the various industries formerly using steam and gasoline power. The rates for commercial and domestic purposes are each ten cents per K. W. H., with discount depending on volume used. The rates for power of the three-phase circuit is five cents per K. W. H., with the same discounts as in lighting. The engines are driven by two Heine water tube boilers of 200 and 125 H. P., respectively. They furnish steam at 150 pounds at the engine throttle. These same boilers furnish steam for driving the three large pumps in the water station. The auxiliary apparatus in the electric station consists of one motor-driven exciter, and one engine-driven exciter, both of 20 K. W. capacity, and one Deane steam jet condenser, into which the two large engines exhaust their steam.

The Water Works.

The water works plant is under the same roof as the Electric Plant, and consists of one large Laidlaw Dunn Gordon engine type, compound condensing, compound duplex pumping engine, of two and a half millions capacity in 24 hours. It has also two Smith-Vale compound duplex pumps of 750,000 gallons each within 24 hours. These are the pumps which force the water to the city for fire and domestic purposes. The plant contains two N. Y. Continental Jewell filters of a daily capacity of 2,000,000 gallons. There is one large reinforced concrete reservoir which holds 500,000 gallons of water in storage. There is also one large reinforced concrete coagulating basin which is six feet deep and 75 feet in diameter. It is in this basin that the water from the river is pumped, with sufficient alum water solution to settle out any impurities that may be contained in the raw water. The water stays in this basin from two to three hours, and is pumped to and through the two large sand filters above mentioned, where the remaining impurities are caught and held. The water goes from the filters to the large concrete reservoir, and is ready



East Graded School Building



West Graded School Building

for use. The filters and the coagulating basin take out 98 per cent of the harmful bacteria, which is considered an unusually high per cent.

The buildings, reservoirs and foundations were built by D. J. Rose & Co., contractors of this city, and the plans and specifications were drawn by F. D. Milstead and J. N. Ely, Engineers, of Atlanta. The construction and installation was under the supervision of Mr. A. S. Lyon, Supt. The approximate cost of the plant, including new transmission lines, and new 14-inch water main to standpipe, was close to \$85,000.00

The sewerage system has cost to the present time, about \$30,800.00. The city has under construction a new sewerage disposal plant located near the railroad bridge, that when completed, will have cost approximately \$6,500.00.

This plant will consist of three concrete tanks and one chemical house, and is being built under direction of the N. C. State Board of Health, in compliance with their new regulations.

The Superintendent of Public Works is Mr. A. S. Lyon, who has efficiently filled the position for the past seven years. Mr. Lyon is a native of Granville County, a graduate of the North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College, class of 1899 with the degree of B. S. On the completion of a special course in Electrical Engineering at this college, Mr. Lyon took charge of the Roanoke Navigation & Waterpower Co., where he remained until 1904, when he came to Rocky Mount. His record as Superintendent of Public Works is a fine one, and his services have been eminently satisfactory to the city.

The Churches.

Rocky Mount is emphatically a church and church-going town, and has some of the most creditable church edifices in the state. The church membership is large in proportion to population, and the greater part of the members are active in church work and worship. While the religious spirit is dominant in the town, it is a broad and liberal spirit with regard to denominationalism. Almost all religious faiths are represented in the city, and tolerance is the rule, all churches working in harmony and cooperating to as large an extent as possible. The churches (white) in Rocky Mount, are as follows: Missionary Baptist 4, Primitive Baptist 1, Methodist Episcopal 4, Methodist Protestant 1, Presbyterian 1, Episcopal 1, Christian 1, Catholic 1, total 14. There are also a number of Christian Scientists here though they have no organized church. The Primitive Baptists were the first to establish a church in Rocky Mount, away back in the early days of America. This church was located and is yet located near the Falls of the Tar, and for a hundred years has been a landmark and a place of gathering. The history of this church and the history of Rocky Mount have been entwined through all the years of the town's existence. The new Methodist Church at the corner of Church Street and Sunset Avenue was built five years ago, and is a model church both architecturally and with regard to convenience. With the parsonage adjoining, it cost approximately \$25,000.00. The new Presbyterian Church just completed is a most handsome edifice, costing \$20,000.00. Thoroughly modern and convenient in its appointments, it has no superior as a church building in this section. The ideal and handsome brick house of the Episcopal Church on Church Street is well worthy of mention, and this church includes in its membership some of the leading and most progressive citizens of Rocky Mount. The First Baptist congregation, one of the largest church organizations in the city, are preparing to erect this year a large and costly brick building on their handsome lot on Church Street, that will be commensurate with the size and wealth of this strong church.



First Methodist Episcopal Church



Presbyterian Church—Rev. Dr. W. D. Morton, Pastor

The pastors of the various white churches of the city, are as follows:

First Baptist Church, Rev. I. M. Mercer, D. D.

Arlington Street Baptist, Rev. A. B. Harrell.

First Presbyterian Church, Rev. W. D. Morton, D. D.

First Methodist Church, Rev. L. P. Howard.

Episcopal Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Rev. R. B. Owens.

Calvary Baptist, Rev. W. O. Biggs.
N. Rocky Mount Baptist, Rev. C. G. Lowe.
Primitive Baptist, Elder P. D. Gold.
Marvin Methodist, Rev. J. B. Thompson
South Ry. Mt. Methodist, do
Clarke St. Methodist, do
Methodist Protestant, Pastorate vacant
Christian Church, Rev. H. C. Boblitt
Catholic, Father C. B. Harriman.

The colored church membership is also very strong in Rocky Mount, and while the city has its share of the disreputable colored element to be found in all Southern cities, it is probable that Rocky Mount has more substantial colored citizens, who own their own homes and are succeeding in business, than any other city of like size in the South. Though perhaps a little out of connection just at this point, it might be mentioned that the negroes of Rocky Mount own and operate a silk mill, said to be the only one owned and operated by negroes in the state, and one of the few in the world so owned and operated.

The Rocky Mount Road District.

Rocky Mount is justly proud of her good roads, especially within a radius of five to ten miles from the city. These roads, built of sand and clay are the envy of the surrounding towns, and maintain their excellence through all sorts of weather.

The first great impetus given good roads building was the passage of an act through the N. C. Legislature of 1907, after a hard struggle, creating the Rocky Mount Road District. This district embraces 100 square miles of territory with Rocky Mount as the centre. It is under the supervision and control of the Rocky Mount Road Commission, composed of one member elected by the county commissioners of Nash county, one member elected by the county commissioners of Edgecombe county, and three members elected by the Board of Aldermen of the city of Rocky Mount. The bill as passed authorized a bond issue of \$100,000.00 of 40-year bonds and a special tax levy. There was much outside opposition to the bill, which was introduced in the State Senate by Senator T. T. Thorne, and dire predictions were made.

It is a fact however that the working of the system has been ideal. Old roads have been straightened, new

PHILIPS BUILDING.

Owned by Mr. Hyman Phillips, of Tarboro, until recently an attorney of Rocky Mount, now practicing law with Solicitor Allsbrook in Tarboro. This building is one of the best office buildings in the city.



roads have been built, and travelling and hauling made easy and profitable instead of the struggle that they used to be. The benefits that have accrued to the town and district are inestimable, and further work is being pushed. The taxation has scarcely been felt, and the increase of land value has overpaid the cost many times. A fine the offenders sent to the roads from the Recorder's Court of the city of Rocky Mount, and all the offenders who committed crimes were committed in this district and who are convicted in the two county Recorder's Courts of Nash and Edgecombe, are sent to The Rocky Mount Road District Road Force to work out their sentences.

The present members of the Rocky Mount Road Commission are:

W. E. Jeffries,
W. S. Wilkinson,
W. H. Horne,
E. L. Daughridge,
E. W. Shearin.

The Fire Company.

Rocky Mount's fire company is well-manned, well-equipped and is kept at a high order of efficiency. It includes 64 men.

The Chief is Dr. J. J. Battle and the Asst. Chief, Mr. D. D. Daughridge.

The city division has as equipment, two Horse-Hose-Wagons, a Number Four Steamer, and is manned by 28 men. R. W. Rawls is Foreman, W. S. Moye 1st Asst' Foreman, and W. Soden Jr., 2nd Asst. Foreman. Quarters in the Municipal Building.

The Hook & Ladder division (Colored) is composed of McIntyre, Foreman, and sixteen men, with hook and ladder truck. Their quarters are on Thomas Street.

The Gibson Hill Division has ten men, one hose truck and has quarters on Bassett Street. Luther Daughridge is Foreman.

The North Rocky Mount division has a hose-truck with quarters on the Falls Road. This division has ten men with Foreman Bass.

Besides these fire departments maintained by the city, The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company keeps a hose department of its own near the shops at South Rocky Mount.

It would be a long story to undertake to tell of the numerous acts of daring and heroism that must be credited to

the Rocky Mount Firemen. It suffices to say, that a braver and more loyal company exists nowhere, and that each individual has proven his willingness to imperil his life if necessary in defense of Rocky Mount against the ravages of the flames. These men occupy a warm place in the hearts of the citizens of the city.

It should be added that on two occasions the local department has won honors in state contests.

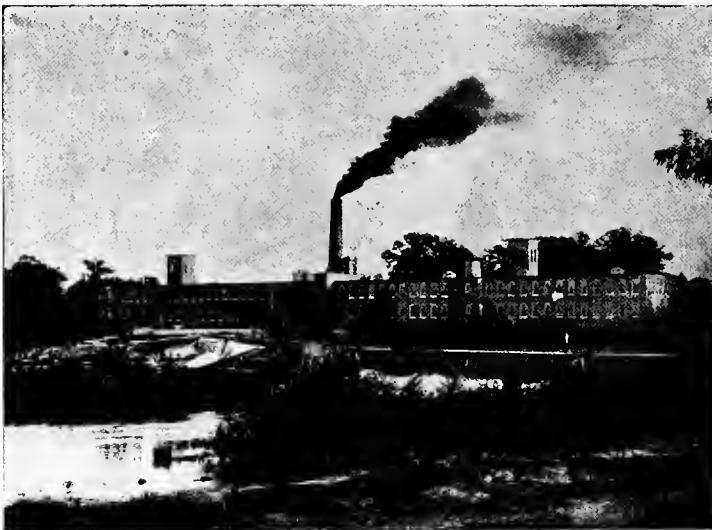
Rocky Mount Military Company.

Having produced men whose bravery and war-like spirit won for them high military honors, and the meed of Immortality in the Revolution, and later in the great struggle of the War Between The States, it was inevitable that Rocky Mount should have even in these peaceful times, a military organization.

Rocky Mount's military company, which is Company "C" of the Second Regiment N. C. National Guard, is only about three years old, and has already won honors at the two State Encampments the company has attended.

They have an armory, club room and quarters on the Second Floor of the Rose Building on Main Street. The company has 47 members, and the officers are as follows:

Captain, J. S. Lewis,
First Lieutenant, H. L. Daughtry,
Second Lieutenant, A. E. Dixon.



The Rocky Mount Mills.

Ranking next to the railroad company as employers of labor and in respect to size and prominence, are The Rocky Mount Mills situated at The Falls of The Tar.

These mills are three in number but are so joined together as to constitute one great industrial giant. They are the support of a large mill town, now an integral part of the city, and contain 30,000 spindles, manufacturing cotton yarns.

These mills, aside from their overshadowing importance as the city's largest manufacturing industry, are a

source of pride to all the people of Rocky Mount from an historical standpoint. First built in 1818, burned down in 1863 by the Federal forces, rebuilt, and burned down a second time in 1871, then immediately rebuilt, neither the exigencies of war nor the financial pitfalls of peace have been able to engulf them. Sentiment is mingled with interest therefore, in the regard the people of Rocky Mount have for the Rocky Mount Mills.

The secret of the mills' success and longevity can be found in the uniformly competent management since their foundation.

The Mills were launched in 1818 by three men, Messrs. Joel Battle, Evans and Donnelson, with Joel Battle as Manager. And since the beginning, for nearly a hundred years, a Battle has been manager. 93 years in one family, it is perhaps safe to say, is a record that is equalled by few other businesses of like proportions in the United States. Slave labor was used in the mills exclusively until the year 1855, when white labor was substituted. The present Treasurer and Manager of The Rocky Mount Mills is Mr. Thomas H. Battle, a great-grandson of Joel Battle, the founder of the business and its first manager.

It would not be amiss to give in this connection, a few particulars about the House of Battle, which for more than a century has been distinguished in North Carolina history. The Edgecombe branch of the family was founded in 1742 by Elisha Battle (grandfather of Joel Battle above mentioned and great-great-great-grandfather of Thomas H. Battle) who came to North Carolina from Virginia, and settled on the banks of Tar River. Elisha Battle was a Senator from Edgecombe in the General Assembly of North Carolina for ten years, and was President of the North Carolina Convention which finally ratified the Constitution of the United States, North Carolina and Rhode Island holding out and refusing to ratify until certain amendments vital to the liberties of the people had been adopted. Elisha Battle was a great Primitive Baptist and one of the founders in this section, (where it even now has so large an influence) of the church of that denomination, so justly famed for probity and the practice of real Christianity. Elisha Battle's grandson, Joel Battle, was the founder of the Rocky Mount Mills as stated in the foregoing. Joel Battle's son, Hon. William H. Battle, was for eight years on the Superior Court Bench of North Carolina, and for fifteen years a Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, being regarded as one of the ablest judges who ever sat upon that court, which has been graced by many of the ablest jurists known to American Jurisprudence. Dr. Kemp P. Battle, son of Judge William H. Battle, and father of Mr. Thomas H. Battle, is a man loved and honored by all North Carolinians. Serving for 16 years with conspicuous ability and usefulness, as President of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, earlier as State Treasurer, and later as Professor of History at the University, he is now in retirement, full of years and full of honors, and is the recipient of an income under the Carnegie Education Endowment Fund given for conspicuous educational services.

It is sufficient to say of Mr. Thomas H. Battle, that he is in all respects worthy of his ancestry. Since his early manhood, he has been one of the most potent forces for progress and good in the building of Rocky Mount and this section. He was for ten years Mayor of Rocky Mount, his administration of the city government being a model of economy, progressiveness and general excellence. He was Alderman for fifteen years and Chairman of the Finance Committee for ten years, resigning from the Board of Aldermen in July 1910. He is now and has been since 1886, Chairman of the School Board of the city. Besides being Treasurer and Manager of The Rocky Mount Mills, Mr. Battle is at present, President of The Bank of Rocky Mount, the oldest financial institution in the city, President of The Rocky Mount Saving & Trust Co., President of Rocky Mount Homestead & Loan Association, the oldest institution of its kind in the city, and of The Rocky Mount Insurance & Realty Co., and is largely interested in other things that mean much to the city.

The President of The Rocky Mount Mills, Hon. R. H. Ricks, who is the subject of a sketch elsewhere in this book, is probably the wealthiest man in this section, and his touch has seemed to spell success to every enterprise with which he has ever been connected.

The full list of officers and directors of The Rocky Mount Mills is as follows:

President, R. H. Ricks.

Sec. & Treas. and Manager, Thomas H. Battle.

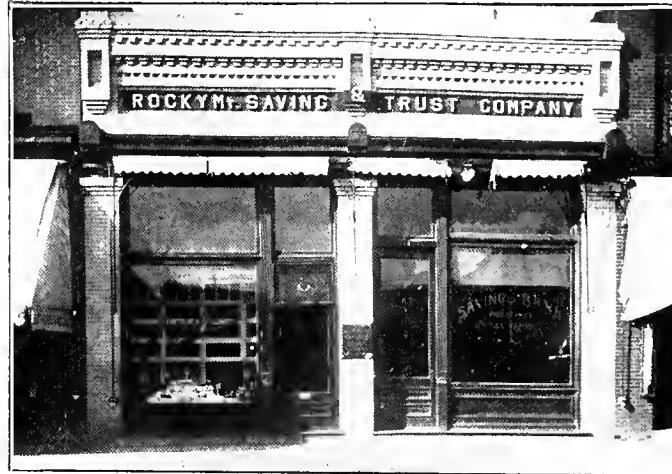
Superintendent, H. L. Holden.

Directors:

- A. J. Ruffin
- R. B. Peebles
- B. Cameron
- W. K. Carr
- A. P. Thorpe
- J. D. Dawes
- R. H. Ricks
- T. H. Battle.



MR. F. P. SPRUILL, Cashier.



The Rocky Mount Savings & Trust Co.

An institution that has wielded a big power for good, in that it has helped the citizens to cultivate habits of saving and thrift, is The Rocky Mount Savings & Trust Co.

This institution which has earned from the people the familiar name of "The Savings Bank", was launched on the business sea, Nov. 2, 1903, with the following officers: President, Thomas H. Battle (also Pres. The Bank of

Rocky Mount.) Vice-President, J. C. Braswell (also President The Planters Bank.) Cashier, Frank P. Spruill. The capital was \$10,000.00. From the initial day, this bank has prospered and has done a great work in the community. The same President, Vice-President and Cashier have guided its fortunes to this day, and it is safe to say that no institution in Rocky Mount has been better managed or more successful.

At the end of the first year in business, the deposits were \$76,302.65. They have grown steadily each year except the year of the famous 1907-8 panic, and the decrease that year was very small as compared with that of other financial concerns. The following table shows the deposits at the end of each business year since the beginning;

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| Nov. 2, 1904 | - - - - - | \$76,302.65 |
| Nov. 2, 1905 | - - - - - | 127,542.67 |
| Nov. 2, 1906 | - - - - - | 164,332.21 |
| Nov. 2, 1907 | - - - - - | 179,940.11 |
| Nov. 2, 1908 | - - - - - | 168,257.64 |
| Nov. 2, 1909 | - - - - - | 207,394.63 |
| Nov. 2, 1910 | - - - - - | 231,119.32 |

Mr. Frank P. Spruill, the Cashier of this bank since its organization, is not only a capable and faithful bank official, but a useful and popular citizen. His career is one of the best illustrations of the fact that industry, honesty and ability are bound to succeed even under adverse circumstances. Mr. Spruill was born in Halifax County, N. C. Oct. 17, 1881. He came to Rocky Mount Aug. 15, 1898, as office boy for the American Tobacco Company. In the summer of 1899, he drove an ice wagon for the local ice company. In the fall of 1899 he went back to the American Tobacco Company as Asst. Factory Manager. In the summer of 1900, he was soda fountain boy at Griffin's Drug Store. In the fall of 1900, he accepted a position as Asst. Factory Manager for Thorpe & Ricks', leaf tobacco dealers. In 1901, through the kindness and advice of Mr. A. P. Thorpe, he was enabled to go to Poughkeepsie, N. Y. to attend the Eastman Business College. Returning in the fall of 1901, he again accepted a position with Thorpe & Ricks, which he held until the organization of The Rocky Mount Savings & Trust Co., when he was elected Cashier of this institution. Feb. 22, 1908. Mr. Spruill was married to Mrs. A. M. Shaw, who was formerly Miss Fannie Philips.

The officers and directors of this bank are now as follows:

President, Thomas H. Battle; Vice-President, James C. Braswell; Cashier, Frank P. Spruill.
Directors, Thomas H. Battle, J. C. Braswell, J. W. Aycock, A. P. Thorpe, Geo. S. Edwards, S. L. Arrington, M. C. Braswell, R. H. Ricks, H. B. Marriott, J. R. Bennett.

L. F. TILLERY & SON,
INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE, LOANS AND RENTS

PHILIPS BUILDING, MAIN STREET,
ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

The firm of L. F. Tillery & Son is comparatively a new one, having begun business Jan. 1, 1911; but the senior member of the firm is so well and favorably known to Rocky Mount and all this section (having been Cashier of The Bank of Rocky Mount for 23 years) that they really need no introduction to the people.

Mr. Luther Fentress Tillery came to Rocky Mount as a child in 1867, when what is now the metropolis of Eastern Carolina was only a small hamlet. Since his young manhood, he has been identified with things that have contributed largely to the building of the city, and toward the best results from a moral standpoint. In his youth, Mr. Tillery was in the railroad and telegraph service, and was for three years manager of the Newbern office of the Western Union Telegraph Co. In 1889, with Mr. Thomas H. Battle and Mr. S. E. Westray, as associates, he took part in the organization of The Bank of Rocky Mount, the first bank organized in Rocky Mount, and was elected Cashier. For twenty-three years, until Jan. 1, 1911, when he resigned to establish his present business, he served as Cashier of that institution, and it is not too much to say, that as for efficiency, courtesy, integrity and popularity, no bank in North Carolina was better served. Mr. Tillery won not only the confidence of all who came in contact with him, but inspired in all a genuine liking. All these things being true, it is inevitable that his present business must be a large success. Mr. Tillery was married Feb. 9, 1887, to Miss Vyne, of Michigan, who is and has been since her first residence here, a social favorite. They have two children living, Miss Annie Vyne Tillery, and Mr. Luther Jarvis Tillery, the junior member of the firm of L. F. Tillery & Son. Mr. L. F. Tillery's father, Dr. R. C. Tillery, was one of the best known and most respected citizens of Rocky Mount, and was for two or three terms Mayor of the city in its earlier days. Dr. Tillery was a veteran of the Civil War, being Captain in the Artillery Service of the Confederacy, and was at one time, Provost Marshal of the city of Wilmington. He came to Rocky Mount originally from Halifax County, N. C.

The junior member of the firm, Mr. Luther Jarvis Tillery is now only 19 years old, but shows fine business



MR. L. F. TILLERY, Senior Member of the Firm.

capacity, and the future holds much promise for him. He was educated in the Graded Schools of Rocky Mount, in the Warrenton High School (N. C.), at Culver, Ind., and in the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

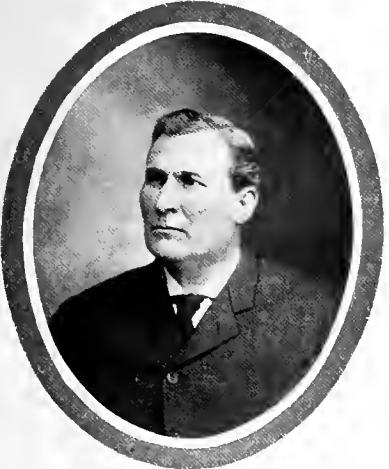
Messrs. L. F. Tillary & Son, write all forms of insurance, collect rents, buy and sell real estate, handling same on commission, and negotiate loans.

They represent the following standard and reliable insurance companies, among the best doing business in this country:

The Prudential Life, The New York Underwriters, the New Hampshire, The Fidelity Phoenix, The Underwriters of Rocky Mount, and The Queen.

Anybody doing business with this firm may be assured in advance that their matters will be handled with the utmost of care, efficiency, fidelity and dispatch.





MR. W. E. JEFFREYS.

Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Nash

Any work on Rocky Mount or Nash County that purposed to tell of their progress and improvement during the past twenty years would be incomplete if it did not include a story of the life and public service of Mr. W. E. Jeffreys; for in almost every movement and undertaking looking to the building up and progress of Rocky Mount, and Nash County especially, his energy and ability have been among the most important and potent factors. Since 1898, Mr. Jeffreys has been a member and Chairman of the Nash County Board of Commissioners. This position is considered by far the most important official station in the County government, corresponding as it does to the speakership and leadership of the legislature of a State, the Board of Commissioners constituting the county's legislative body.

The record of Mr. Jeffreys' administration of county affairs is a story that is a source of pride to every loyal Nash County citizen. It is certain that there is no county in North Carolina whose affairs are administered in a wiser, more economical or more business like manner than are the affairs of Nash County under the present Board of County Commissioners. Every transaction by the county is inspected just as closely and is made just as carefully and economically as Mr. Jeffreys would transact a private matter that concerned only himself. For instance when the new Grand Jury Building was erected a few years ago at a cost of approximately \$3,000, Mr. Jeffreys saw to it that the plans and arrangements were so made as to furnish the county law offices to rent, which are at this time

bringing in an annual revenue that amounts to 11 per cent. of the total cost of construction of the whole building.

In 1898, when Mr. Jeffreys was first elected County Commissioner, the county owed eight thousand dollars (\$8,000.) Since that time, that debt has been liquidated in full; the Grand Jury Building, a two story brick structure, has been erected at a cost of \$3,000; approximately twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) has been spent in repairs, additions and improvements on the Court House; exceeding \$10,000 has been spent in protecting the citizens of the county from the dread ravages of smallpox which gained a strong foothold in the county on the return of the soldiers from the Spanish-American War; seven magnificent iron and steel bridges have been built over Tar River and one over Swift Creek near Gold Rock, besides a large number of substantial wooden bridges over smaller streams in the county; the County Home property has been converted into one of the finest agricultural and farming properties in this section, new houses being built, the land improved, the best teams and farming utensils provided that could be obtained; and in every particular the progress and improvement in county affairs have been most gratifying. The last annual statement showed two hundred and twenty one substantial bridges, including ten of iron and steel.

All this has been done with the utmost economy, but with an eye to permanency and without burden to the tax-payers; and it is but simple justice to say that the strong hand of Mr. Jeffreys has been the guide and has furnished much of the strength. The county does not owe a cent now, with the exception of a small loan of \$500, which the Treasurer can pay at any time without the slightest inconvenience.

It should be said too, that this fine and enduring service has been rendered the county by Mr. Jeffreys at much personal sacrifice. He is a man of large private interests. His idea of public service is such, that if ever they come in conflict, his private interests must give place to the interests of the county. It is natural therefore that he should be held, as he is held, in universal respect and esteem by his fellow countymen. His popularity was conclusively proven at the last election when he was re-elected by the most overwhelming majority of his political career.

Mr. Jeffreys is a native of Granville County, North Carolina, born September 22nd, 1859; and is therefore fifty one years old, in the prime of vigorous and mature manhood. He was educated in the schools of his early youth. He lived in Henderson, N. C., for four years and



COUNTRY HOME OF MR. W. E. JEFFREYS.

Granville and plunged right into business in his early youth.

was one of the most influential forces in the founding of the tobacco business in that town. He came to Rocky Mount in 1892 and launched the Jeffreys' Tobacco Warehouse. His success in the tobacco business is a matter of common knowledge, and it is said by those who ought to know, that a better judge of tobacco never operated on the local market. In 1895, in obedience to his natural taste and inclination, he bought the large and valuable plantation near Rocky Mount, known as the Thorpe place, and became a planter. He subsequently purchased other adjoining tracts until his land holdings in Nash County now amount to, approximately, one thousand acres of the best and most favorably situated land in the county. He conducts one of the largest and best dairies in eastern Carolina. Owning only the purest and most aristocratic of the Bovine breeds, his dairy products are the last word in quality; and the famous "Jeffreys Butter" is one thing that is sought after by every discriminating house-keeper in this city.

Mr. Jeffreys is also one of the owners of the Jeffreys-Ricks Clay Works, a concern that manufactures a famous brick especially adapted for building and paving purposes, which is sold over North Carolina and adjoining states. Other things, in addition, that contribute to the material and moral progress of the city and county have found in Mr. Jeffreys a liberal patron and friend.

Mr. Jeffreys' home life and his family are ideal, and no doubt account for much of the strength and integrity that have been so conspicuous in his record in public office. He was married in 1891 to Miss Dena Lyon, and their union has proven a most happy and congenial one. They have five children, varying in age from six to eighteen, all bright and spirited, showing the refinement and gentleness that must ever result from good lineage and proper training.

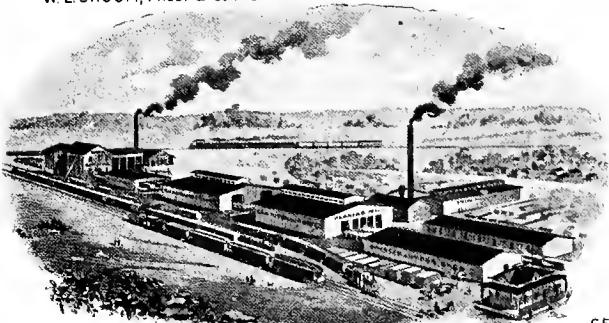
Mr. Jeffreys takes an active interest in Church work, and is one of the most prominent and influential members of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Rocky Mount.

W. L. GROOM, PRES'T & GEN'L MGR

W. T. KEETON, VICE PRES'T

HOWARD E. BAKER, TREAS.

S. T. ANDERSON, SECY.



WE USE LUMBERMANS TELECODE

WE FURNISH ON SHORT NOTICE STAIR TRIM, PORCH TRIM,
WINDOW FRAMES, DOOR FRAMES, SCREEN DOORS, AND
SCREEN WINDOWS, AND MANTELS

MANUFACTURERS
OF
KILN DRIED FLOORING,
CEILING, SIDING AND MOULDINGS.
MOULDED BASE AND CASINGS.

INCORPORATED,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN
KILN DRIED NORTH CAROLINA PINE, POPLAR AND OAK.
DIRECT FROM STUMP TO THE MARKET.

ROCKY MOUNT, N.C.,

THIS CUT SHOWS THE MANY BUILDINGS OF THE TAR RIVER LUMBER COMPANY.

TAR RIVER LUMBER CO.

ROCKY MOUNT'S MAMMOTH LUMBER PLANT.

Among the industries that have contributed to the upbuilding and progress of Rocky Mount and this section, the Tar River Lumber Company is easily one of the greatest and most potent. This company's plant is at present one of the most complete and modernly equipped lumber plants in the South. It has a capacity of 40,000 feet in ten hours, and by reason of the perfect arrangement of the buildings and machinery, together with a management that for excellence of system and entire efficiency is scarcely equalled in the country, the plant is able to convert timber

into finished lumber at a minimum cost that absolutely guarantees its ready sale on the market at profitable prices.

The present plant of the Tar River Lumber Company is located just on the out-skirts of Rocky Mount, on the Nashville branch of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. It consists of the latest improved band saw mill, the building being 36X132 feet; a planing mill 72X132 feet, which includes a band resaw with a capacity of 50,000 feet per day for turning out flooring, ceiling, weather boarding and finished lumber of all kinds; a trim mill 48X144 feet, in which is made inside and outside finish of high grade; brick dry kilns fire proof, and two modern power plants of 500 horse power. The company has a railroad running from this mill in a northwesterly direction through Nash county, which penetrates their timber properties and hauls the logs to the mill. As a matter of accommodation to the people who live along the line, this railroad, while not a common carrier, has been hauling several thousand tons of fertilizer annually. It is the purpose of Mr. Groom, the President and General Manager of the company, (and whatever he purposes to do is pretty sure to be done) within the near future to convert this private railroad into a common carrier that will carry both freight and passengers. The benefits that will accrue to the people of that section of Nash county traversed by this railroad will be incalculable. The railroad will have one of the towns in the northwestern section of Nash county as its objective point, and may be extended further to a connecting line.

The Tar River Lumber Company is perhaps the only lumber plant in the South that cuts the log from the stump and handles it in its entirety through the different processes necessary to finish it up for all kinds of inside trim, including grills, mantels, store fixtures of all descriptions, window and door frames, etc. Many of the finest stores and residences in eastern North Carolina have been finished on the inside by this plant. The company owns a vast amount of standing timber, sufficient to supply them with the raw material for several years, and also owns several thousand acres of land in fee simple, and they are constantly adding to their holdings.

This company has a paid up capital of \$300,000.00 on which it pays a substantial dividend just as regularly as the years come and go.

History Of The Business.

In 1897, Messrs. W. L. Groom, J. H. Harris, Howard E. Baker and Abram McHenry formed a copartnership to operate the old Tar River Lumber Company plant, with Mr. W. L. Groom as manager. The business was comparatively small at that time, but succeeded from the beginning, owing to the competency of the manager, Mr. Groom, and to his thorough knowledge of the lumber business from the moment the timber is cut from the stump



MR. W. L. GROOM
President and General Manager.

until it has become a finished product. In 1902, Messers. Harris, Groom and Baker purchased the interest of Mr. McHenry. The plant continued to grow and prosper until April 4th 1905 when it was totally destroyed by fire, the loss being about \$40,000, with insurance of \$19,000. For a time, it was doubtful as to whether or not the company would rebuild in Rocky Mount. It is needless to say that this was a matter that greatly concerned every loyal citizen of the city, and there was much gratification when the company finally decided to rebuild here on even a larger and more magnificent scale. The present site was then secured and the present mammoth plant constructed.

“The Master Hand.”

The story of the success and growth of the Tar River Lumber Company is largely the story of the wonderful experience and energy of one man. This man came to Rocky Mount, a stranger from the North, in 1896, and has taught this section a new lesson in industrial achievement, and has organized a monster business by gathering up and with a master hand, crystallizing into a great and beneficial industry, the ragged ends of what had hitherto been a slipshod, nondescript business—he has taught and assisted the people of this section to utilize in the most productive manner, their large timber holdings which had before been something of a burden rather than otherwise. Scores of families now have abundant reason for gratitude to him for the means furnished them to clear from their homes the incubus of mortgages that had been hanging over them for years. This man's name is William L. Groom, President and General Manager of the Tar River Lumber Company. Mr. Groom came to Rocky Mount in Feb. 1896, and started this lumber business in one of the hardest years for the lumbermen since 1893. The conditions were such that the banks would not discount commercial paper, no matter how good it might be considered in ordinary times. This made it especially hard on the lumber business on account of the fact that, however fine the sales might be, they did not count for much, owing to the fact that the paper taken in settlement could not be used at the banks. It was a time of financial stringency and of business failures throughout the country. And yet, Mr. Groom so managed his plant that it was not shut down for a single day for want of business. The utmost economy was practised, Mr. Groom keeping his own books for two years, doing his book work at night from memoranda jotted down during the day when he was performing a strong man's work, actually laboring as hard as any of his men. In this way he kept things going, never failing in his confidence in the future of the business. Still, even his great energy and close application could not have saved the business if he had not been thoroughly conversant with every detail and with every necessary process involved in the converting of the standing timber into the finished product and advantageously putting it on the market. Having had experience, and having worked himself up from the humblest work in the lumber business, he was able to grasp every detail of the work and to give intelligent and forceful supervision to every department.

The tide of adversity stemmed in that instance, the business went forward by leaps and bounds making money for the stockholders, and enlarging its capacity and spreading its benefits. Then in 1907, came another crisis in business affairs—the well remembered panic of 1907 thundering the wreck and crash of scores of old established businesses throughout the United States. Failures were almost daily occurrences and the shutting down of manufacturing

plants and the discharge of hundreds of employees was seen on every hand. All this was bound to affect the lumber business very severely, for it is well known that when panics come, building and construction stop. Here in Rocky Mount, hundreds of men were thrown out of employment; but it is a notable fact that not one day did the plant of the Tar River Lumber Company stand idle, and not one man was discharged, except for his own negligence. Again, Mr. Groom was sitting steady in the boat. He recognized the condition of the large number of men and their families who were depending on him for their support, and he was determined that as long as the mills could run without too much loss to his stockholders, who had their money invested, that none of his men should lose a day's work. It is not a matter of wonder therefore, that labor troubles, insubordination and shiftlessness are practically unknown at the plant of the Tar River Lumber Company, and that loyalty to Mr. Groom and the company is deep-seated in their employees.

To further show the development of this staple concern, we will go back to 1904, when Mr. Groom decided to again enlarge his business and bought over a big lumber plant in Onslow county, carrying with it immense tracts of land and timber. Mr. Groom purchased this property as Trustee for himself and others, and incorporated it under the name of The Swansboro Land and Lumber Company, with a paid up capital of \$150,000.00. The operation of this plant has been very successful, Mr. T. H. Pritchard being the local manager, but Mr. Groom exercising in his own way, a supervision that takes account of even the smallest details. The lumber is shipped from the Swansboro plant both by water and rail. Gasoline tugs are provided for towing purposes, and the plant owns and operates a standard-gauge railroad, fourteen miles long. The mill has every modern improvement and has a supply at present of seventy five million feet of timber. Mr. Groom is also interested in some other large propositions which are yet in their first stages of development.

The birthplace of Mr. Groom is at Big Flats, Chemung County, New York, ten miles from the city of Elmira, and the year of his birth was 1861. His father before him was in the lumber business, Mr. Groom taking on the responsibility of the success of his father's business at the early age of seventeen years, being very successful from the beginning. He was educated in the free schools of New York and completed a commercial course in Allen's Business College in New York in 1881. At the age of twenty three years, in Feb. 1886, Mr. Groom commenced to learn the finishing part of the lumber business by striking out for himself. He began in the planing mill business as stationary engineer. He was promoted in five weeks to the position of inspector and buyer of lumber where he remained for two years. He was then made superintendent of the planing mill and wholesale shipping department. Resigning this position in 1889, he went with a larger concern, the Harris-McHenry Company with whom he remained until seven years later when he came to Rocky Mount and established the Tar River Lumber Company.

Mr. Groom's career in Rocky Mount has been one long record of unbroken growth in usefulness, influence, popularity and success. It is not too much to say that there are few if any men in Rocky Mount who are held in higher esteem.

The citizens elected Mr. Groom a member of the Board of Aldermen, where he served four worthwhile years and where he would probably be yet if he had not resigned, owing to the pressure of his large business affairs. Mr. Groom is a member of the Board of Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church of Rocky Mount and one of its most influential members. The work of his head and heart has been seen in the establishment of Sunday Schools and in other Missionary work where it was most needed. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Temple, and is a Royal Arch Mason, as well as a prominent member of the Pythian Fraternity, and of the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce.

One of the main elements perhaps in the remarkable success that Mr. Groom has achieved has been this fact (which those who are starting in business would do well to note particularly,) as he has acquired more and more power and position, he has never for one moment let up in the dominating industry and energy which have been such conspicuous features of his business career. If there is any difference, he works harder now than when he first came to Rocky Mount, recognizing that "eternal vigilance" is the price of continued business success as well as of "liberty."

The Tar River Lumber Company's business organization, perfected by Mr. Groom, is a wonder of thoroughness and efficiency. He receives daily reports from every department of the business. He is thus enabled to keep complete tab on the whole organization, backing this up by frequent personal inspections, and at the close of each day he can calculate to a nicely just what has been done.

Mr. Groom has a handsome and commodious residence at 226 Franklin Street, which was built from plans drawn by Mr. and Mrs. Groom according to their own ideas. It is undoubtedly one of the best and most conveniently arranged homes in the city. Here Mr. Groom dispenses unstinted hospitality to his host of friends. A picture of the Groom residence appears on another page of this book.

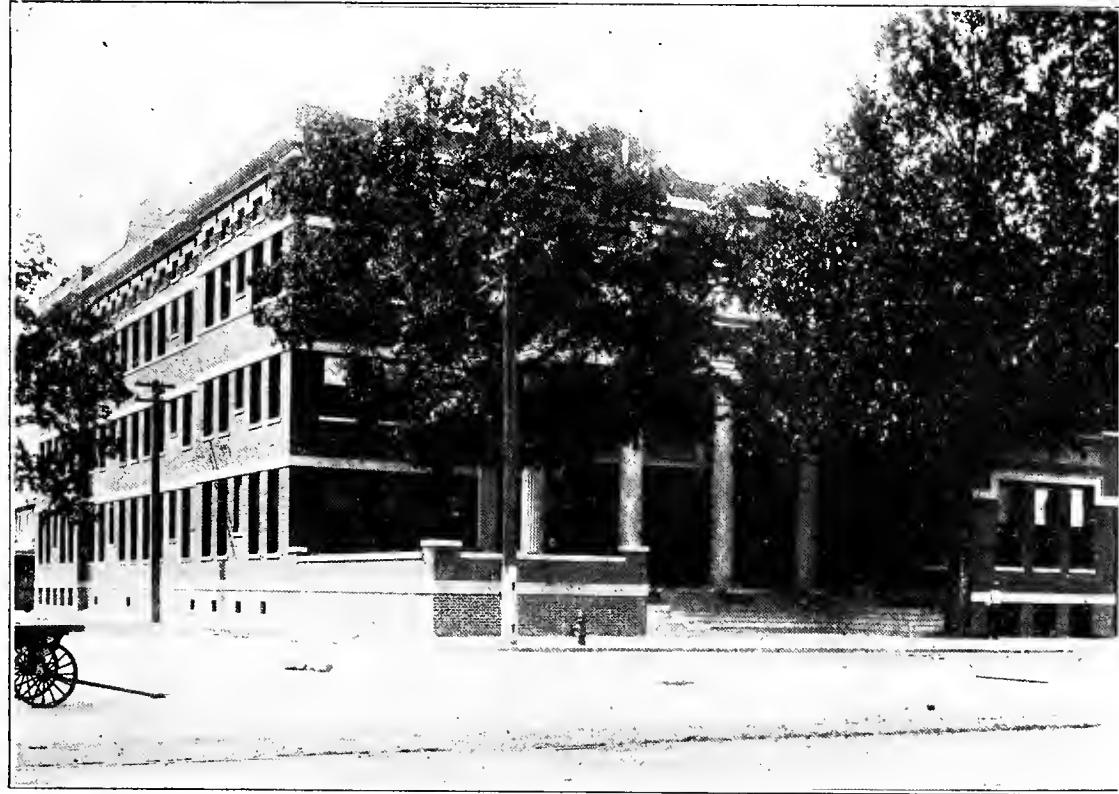
Altogether, it might well be said, that Mr. Groom measures up fully to that quality of man who in the words of the poet, is necessary to fitly "constitute a State."



Residence of Mr. W. L. Groom, 226 Franklin Street.

Rocky Mount is famed for its beautiful and commodious residences. It is truly a "city of homes." The residence of Mr. W. L. Groom here shown, is a wonder in convenience and comfort. The plans for the residence were drawn by Mr. and Mrs. Groom, themselves, carrying out their own ideas of a model arrangement.

*(On
2nd Franklin)*



The Ricks Hotel,
Rocky Mount, N. C.

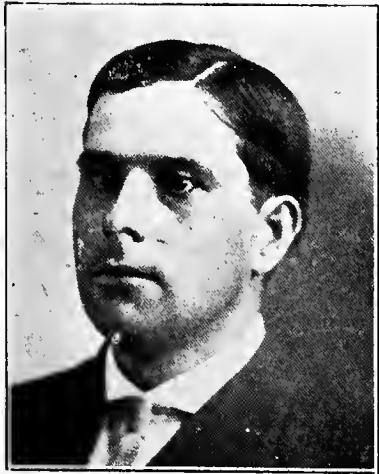
THE PRIDE OF ROCKY MOUNT—HER HOTELS.

The Ricks, The Cambridge and The Alton, All Located at Rocky Mount; The Louise Hotel, at Washington, N. C. The Bland, at Raleigh, N. C. All the Products of the Brain of Mr. Bland.

Rocky Mount today is probably more largely and extensively advertised by her hotels than any other industry operated in this city. All of this is in the main due to the ability, amounting to rare genius, in Mr. T. L. Bland, who is the manager back of all of them. Like most men who have achieved notable success in life, Mr. Bland first saw life in the country, where it seems the atmosphere breathes ambition unusually strong in sturdy characters. After gaining an education in common schools and a business education in Kentucky, Mr. Bland was employed as a traveling salesman. This gave him an insight into what the man who patronizes hotels most, would desire in the way of accommodations after his day's work is done. His extensive travel gave him valuable experience to which no doubt has been due to a large extent his ability to conduct so successfully his many hotel enterprises.

Having the ambition to engage in the conduct of the hotel business, and observing the rapid growth of Rocky Mount, and realizing its consequence adaptability for a well conducted hotel, he first started in a modest way by leasing what was five years ago known as The Cuthrell Hotel. At that time this structure was not considered the best hotel building in the city, but by force of natural ability and his courteous demeanor to the traveling men, constant and untiring efforts to please, he was enabled to make a success of this venture in spite of the fact that other natural conditions were against him. The ability which he demonstrated attracted the attention of other men of business ability who had won their spurs in hard business battles in Rocky Mount and Hon. R. H. Ricks became associated with Mr. Bland in the erection of what is now known as The Ricks Hotel. When these gentlemen decided to build the large and strictly modern hotel for Rocky Mount, Mr. Bland made an attractive offer to the owners of The Cambridge Hotel (which had been operated in opposition to him,) for a lease on that building; so, when work was commenced on The Ricks building, Mr. Bland took the management of The Cambridge. As had been in the conduct of The Cuthrell, his success in the conduct of The Cambridge was the cause of universal comment among all of the traveling men that touched this city.

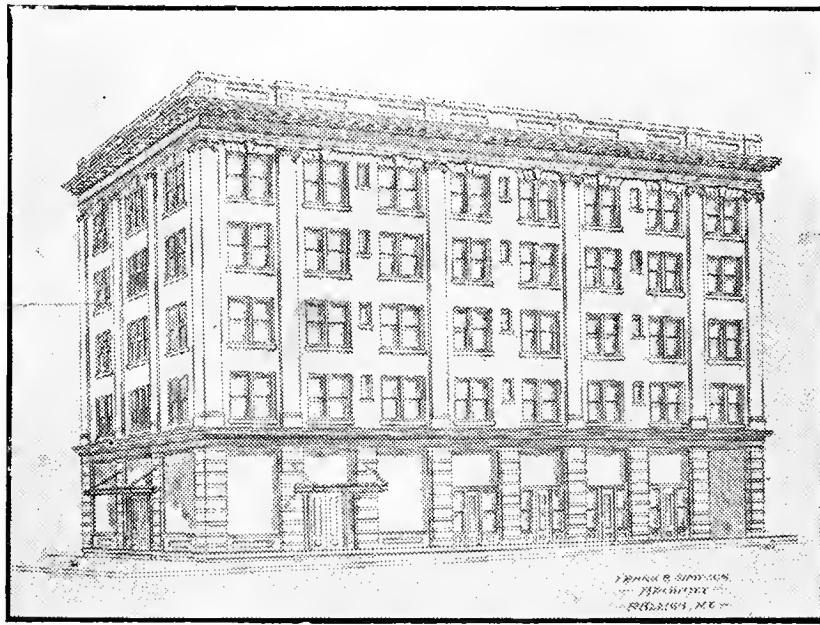
It took about a year for the erection of The Ricks Hotel, when in June, 1909, the fine new hotel was ready to be opened for the patronage of the public. When the scheme of building this modern hotel had first become generally known, comment had been general that such a large and expensive institution could not be made to pay in the city of Rocky Mount, but the judgment of Mr. Bland was proved to be correct, for from the beginning, after the hotel was



MR. T. L. BLAND,
Head of Five Hotels.

opened for the public, though considered very large for a city the size of Rocky Mount, it was filled to its capacity, and it was a rule that nearly every night patrons had to be turned away to go to other hotels in the city, which were then under different management.

When it was decided to build The Ricks Hotel, the Cuthrell Hotel, which had occupied an ideal location, was moved to an opposite corner, and The Ricks erected upon the site where had stood The Cuthrell.



THE BLAND HOTEL,
Raleigh, N. C.

hotel was then changed to the name of The Alton, receiving this name as an honor to the only child (a son) of Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Bland. The Alton was continued in operation under the ownership of Messrs. Ricks and Bland.

During the first year of the operation of The Ricks and Alton Hotels under the ownership of Messrs. Ricks and Bland, The Cambridge, which had been renovated throughout, and made into what would be considered a really modern hotel under ordinary circumstances for any city in the State of North Carolina, this hotel was operated under the management of Mr. W. E. Porch. After this hotel had been conducted under such management for nearly a year, it was purchased by Messrs. Ricks and Bland and used to assist mainly in the accommodation of guests that overflowed The Ricks.

About the time of the purchase of The Cambridge, Messrs. Ricks and Bland decided to lease the Hotel Louise, at Washington, N. C. They spent a considerable outlay in renovating and refurnishing this hotel, which was even then considered the leading hotel of that city. Mr. W. E. Porch, whose picture appears on these pages, had achieved a fine reputation as a hotel man in Norfolk and other cities, and Messrs. Ricks and Bland realizing his ability as such, placed him in charge of the hotel at Washington,

All of these ventures of Messrs. Ricks and Bland proved eminently successful, so much so that they recently decided to invade the Capital city of our State and see what their ability as hotel men could accomplish in that location. A proposition was made to them by the law firm of Messrs. Jones & Bailey, they offering to erect a modern hotel building and lease same for a certain number of years to the firm of Ricks & Bland, the latter to furnish and operate same. The erection of this hotel is going on at the present time and will be rushed to completion. It is expected to be finished and ready for the accommodation of the public sometime during the early Fall, certainly by the time of the State Fair. A picture of this building as it will appear when finished is shown on these pages.

Elsewhere in this book appears a complete history of the life and accomplishments of the senior member of this firm, Mr. R. H. Ricks, who has seemed to possess the happy faculty of discernment of ability in his fellow man, for with hardly an exception, every man with whom he has associated in business has been successful.

In respect to Mr. T. L. Bland, when his natural opportunities and youthfulness are considered, his success is truly remarkable. Any one having read of his accomplishments would naturally think it must have required a long stretch of years to have acquired such success, but at the present writing Mr. Bland is only 28 years of age. As we have previously stated in this article, Mr. Bland first saw the light on a farm. This seems to be a fortunate circumstance for a man of natural ability, partly accounted for from a view point that healthful surroundings give a man a strong body to support a strong mind, and also fires one with ambition to such an extent that a foothold having been gained in a more thickly settled community, application is more constant and success generally more rapid.

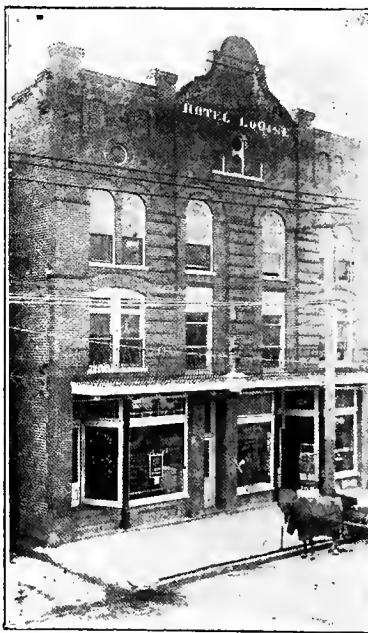


THE CAMBRIDGE HOTEL, Rocky Mount, N. C.

in May, 1906. His subsequent success has been told above in this article, and needs no elaboration, the plain statements of facts stand for themselves and are strong testimony to his business ability. Before closing the description of Mr. Bland it should be stated in justice to him that he has the happy faculty of making each and every traveling man feel at home when he stops at a hotel conducted by him.

THE RICKS HOTEL.

The Ricks Hotel is a strickly modern four-story structure of stone and pressed brick, splendidly located on Main



THE LOUISE HOTEL,
Washington, N. C.



MR. W. E. PORCH,
Mgr. Hotel Louise, Washington, N.C.

This is an admirably constructed hotel, built of pressed brick. It is three stories, has 65 rooms, thoroughly modern in its equipment and under the capable management of Mr. W. E. Porch. Washington has always been a popular point with the traveling men, and since the administration of Messrs. Ricks & Bland, the Louise has been headquarters there and patronage has greatly increased.

THE BLAND HOTEL, RALEIGH, N. C.

And now The BLAND! This is to be a five-story-up-to-date-in-every-detail, hostelry. Aside from the fact of its being the best in the State when completed, it will vie with any in the South and will have eighty rooms.

Street, next to the Coast Line station. It has 75 bedrooms, (all outside,) 40 rooms having private bath; telephone (both local and long distance) in every room, and at every table in the dining room. Its lobbies, parlors, and writing rooms are handsomely furnished; the spacious auditorium, billiard and pool rooms, barber shop and pressing club, as well as soda fountain and drug store add much to the pleasure and convenience of the guests. Has its own cold storage plant, and printery, and is equipped with an electric elevator. This hotel is as near perfect as money and thorough management can make it.

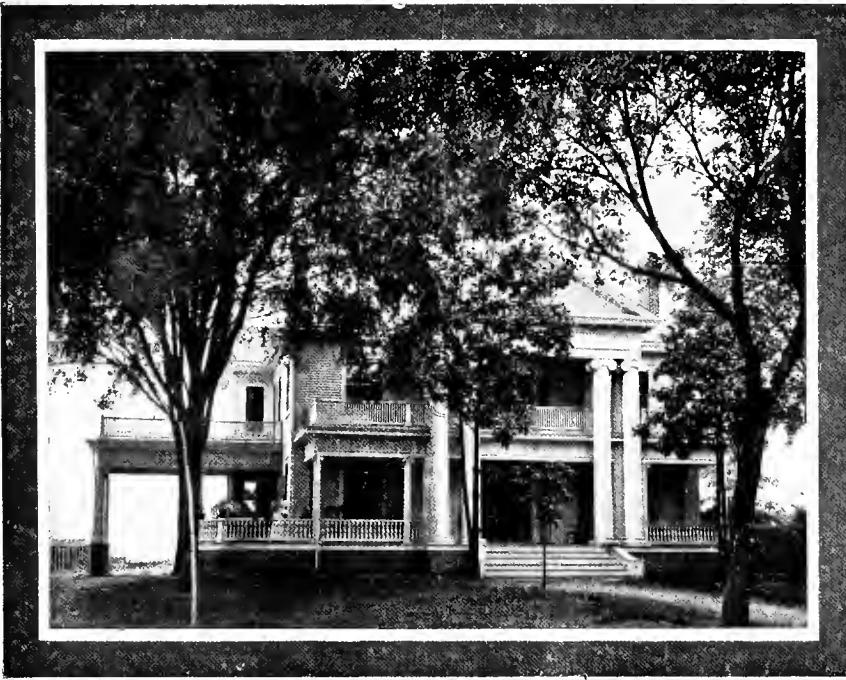
THE CAMBRIDGE HOTEL.

This hotel is second only to the Ricks in this section, and in point of service and other respects is kept at the same high point of efficiency. It is three-stories, has 42 rooms, thoroughly modern, telephone in each room, private baths in a large portion of the rooms. The Cambridge is built of stone and pressed brick and is itself an imposing structure.

THE ALTON HOTEL.

The Alton has 22 rooms, with all modern accommodations, within a minute's walk of the station, and as is the case with the above mentioned hotel, is always well filled with guests.

THE LOUISE HOTEL, WASHINGTON, N. C.

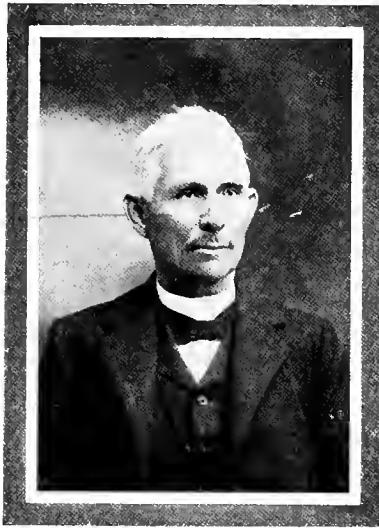


MR. J. C. BRASWELL'S RESIDENCE.



COUNTRY RESIDENCE OF
HON. R. H. RICKS.

HON. ROBERT H. RICKS, Soldier, Legislator, Financier.



The story of Leonidas and his Three Hundred Spartans at Thermopylae, and the tale of the last matchless charge of the Old Guard at Waterloo, have numberless times thrilled the hearts of men who love bravery, loyalty and patriotism.

Leonidas and his Spartans, and the devoted and favorite troops of the Corsican "Man of Destiny" have long since fallen on sleep in "the bivouac of the dead"; but Rocky Mount and North Carolina are yet blest in that they do

not yet have to dig in the ashes of the past for heroes to honor. A few of them, yearly growing pitifully fewer, are yet spared to us that we may look on them and have the story of the privilege to tell to our children in the years to come.

There live in Rocky Mount today, two of the immortal Six who volunteered to charge the house at Bethel, in which charge the life of Henry Wyatt, one of the Six, was offered up as the first red sacrifice on the altar of the Southern Confederacy. These living heroes are John H. Thorpe and Robert H. Ricks, the subject of this sketch, the only other survivor being R. H. Bradley, Marshal of the Supreme Court of North Carolina.

The story of the life of Robert H. Ricks is an epic that brings pride to every North Carolinian. Not less renowned in peace than in war, he has come to fill perhaps a larger place in the industrial affairs of this city and section than any other individual. He is at present, President of The Rocky Mount Mills, the largest manufacturing concern in the city, Vice-President and Director and one of the largest stockholders in The Bank of Rocky Mount, our oldest financial institution, Vice-President of the Mayodam and Washington Mills, President of The Rocky Mount Ice & Fuel Co., President of the Enfield Hosiery Mills, member of the firm of Ricks & Bland who operate three magnificent hotels in Rocky Mount, one in Washington, and have one now in course of construction in Raleigh that will be without a peer in the Capital City, member of the firm of Thorpe & Ricks, among the largest leaf tobacco dealers in Eastern North Carolina, member of the firm of H. E. Brewer & Co., one of the city's largest retail and supply stores, and part owner of the Jeffreys-Ricks Clay Works, large brick manufacturers. Mr. Ricks is also one of the largest planters in Nash county and is interested in numerous other things of note and consequence, in the commercial life of this city and territory.

Mr. Ricks is a native of Nash county, and lives now within three miles of the place where he was born, in 1839. He has never lived anywhere else, every energy and force of his life having been devoted to the building up of his native city and county. He comes of sturdy and upright Nash county stock, the best in the state, and his name has ever stood for probity and honor among his fellow men.

Volunteering in the famous "Bethel Regiment" at the first bugle-call to battle in 1861, sharing with Wyatt and his comrades, the first honors of the war, the breast of Robert H. Ricks was bared to the enemy's bullets hundreds of times in defense of his beloved Southland. And when the Star of the Confederacy had finally set in agony and tears behind the bloody horizon at Appomattox, Robert H. Ricks and his famous "Manley's Battery" were still fighting.

For this man NEVER SURRENDERED!

During the last fighting around Appomattox, having charged further ahead than had been anticipated, Mr. Ricks'



SCENE OF R. H. RICK'S FARM.

command in some way became cut off from the main body of Southern troops (here they delivered their last artillery fire of the war, having an opportunity to fire point-blank in the face of Sheridan's charging cavalry, and did terrible execution. Henry Biggs, uncle of the present Judge J. Crawford Biggs, was killed in the fight); and when the last hope was gone, and it became known to them that their beloved "Marse Robert" had at last become enveloped in the great mass of attacking hosts and had yielded to the inevitable, Mr. Ricks with two other kindred spirits "took to the mountains", determined that as they had followed the Stars and Bars four years without yielding, at that late day their arms should not be stricken at Federal command. For fourteen days, Mr. Ricks, on foot and after a time having become separated from his companions, traversed the woods and mountains, keeping under cover and living as best he could. He crossed the Dan River at Leaksville, and finally arrived at home in Nash county, footsore and weary, but still unconquered and under no oath or parole. Thus was demonstrated, the same indomitable spirit and courage that have meant so much since the war in this man's efforts to build up his wasted and impoverished South.

We write it here in plain words, but it should be written in letters of gold, that not once in those four ensanguined years of the bloodiest war known to history, did Mr. Ricks' battery ever retreat from a charge in front. Twenty-one charges were sustained at Spottsylvania Court House; at Cold Harbor, the wheels of the gun Mr. Ricks was operating were actually shot down with minie balls, so completely that new wheels had to be put on before the gun could be moved, the only instance of the kind on record, and Mr. Ricks himself was struck five times in this one fight; yet

his battery never retreated from a front attack and he never surrendered. History, ancient or modern, cannot furnish a more glorious record. Belonging to the same battery, were Thomas Rolac, afterward a United States Judge in Alabama, William Jones, for years Mayor of Petersburg, Va., Ex-Sheriff Atkinson of Johnston county, and other men whose valiant conduct on hard-fought fields furnished a forecast of their subsequent achievements.

"And since that dark day in the Spring-Time,
"When a nation's sun went down,"

Mr. Ricks, like his suffering mater dolorosa, Carolina, has just as bravely, and with the same sublime fortitude, taken up the more harassing battle of Peace, and has wrought a great man's work in helping to raise from the ashes of ruined homes and fortunes, a new and beautiful commonwealth, infinitely stronger and richer in material wealth and prosperity, but withal, holding fast to the honor and high ideals of our fathers. Returning, as stated above, after "the Surrender," heartsick, but strong and unafraid, young Ricks went back to work with an old bachelor named Wells, with whom he had lived before the war, and now began again at the princely (?) salary of \$10. per month and "keep". Those were hard days, but young Ricks saved his money. When he had accumulated \$300. (his salary having been raised in the meantime) he made his first investment in stock of the old Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, now a part of the Atlantic Coast Line system. This proved a fortunate investment, showing even that early the sound business judgment of the young investor, and on a later sale, netted him \$600. profit. Mr. Wells soon after died leaving young Ricks additional stock in this railroad, which he sold for \$1600. In 1871, Mr. Ricks came to Rocky Mount and built a house on Church Street, hauling in the timber himself at night from the country. He sold this house at a profit of \$300, and for some time, continued to build houses and sell them. From this period, his rise financially has been substantially rapid. Today he is Rocky Mount's and this section's wealthiest citizen. It has seemed that he has had only to connect himself with a business to render it very successful. This of course has been due to executive ability, unerring judgment of men, and to the high standard and just methods of all his commercial dealings. He has been "square" to his fellow man, and his fellow man has known he could trust him.

Ever a busy man and much occupied with his large and varied business interests, Mr. Ricks has yet made sacrifices and found time to serve his county and state to their great satisfaction and profit in a number of public stations. The people have been delighted to honor him, and never has this failed of the utmost warrant in his case. He was for four years on the Board of Commissioners of Nash county; a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1903; State Senator from Nash in 1905; a member of the Board of Education for four years and its chairman; member of the Board of Directors of the State Penitentiary; and member of the Board of Trustees of the



PRIMING TOBACCO TO GO IN BARN FOR CURING—R. H. RICKS FARM.

North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College. In each of these capacities, Mr. Ricks has served with honor to himself and with signal credit to the public.



PREPARING TOBACCO FOR CURING AT R. H. RICKS FARM.

The poor and the needy, as well as deserving men struggling under difficulties, have found in Mr. Ricks a wise counsellor and a friend whose hand was open. At one time, when the Rocky Mount Graded Schools were in temporary straits, Mr. Ricks contributed \$800. from his own pocket to meet their pressing needs. This is but one instance of many where he has come to the rescue of deserving men and things when they were hard pressed.

As a planter, Mr. Ricks has for years been blazing the way for better and more scientific farming methods and cultivation, and consequently more remunerative agriculture. He was the pioneer in this section in the growth and culture of tobacco, which has since become such a great industry here. Here was illustrated the foresight and judgment that have been such prominent characteristics of his business career. Mr. Ricks owns some 1600 acres of the best-situated, most highly improved and most valuable farming lands in Nash county, besides his extensive real estate holdings in the city of Rocky Mount. His large plantation, five miles from the city, and his modern and intensive farming methods, and machinery, are a model for the farmers of this section. His plantation home is a gem, from standpoints of beauty, convenience and architecture. The broad and beautiful grounds surrounding his home were laid out by an expert landscape artist, and constitute one of the loveliest views in the county. Stately oaks and sweet magnolias add to the beauty of the surroundings.



LOAD TOBACCO LEAVES—R. H. RICKS FARM.



COW BARN AND SILO—RICKS FARM.

On this plantation, cotton, tobacco, corn and grasses reach their highest state of cultivation and production. Mr. Ricks has the gift of maintaining an ideal state of efficiency and order among his tenants. Perhaps his unquestioned justice, and his consideration for their needs and comfort, account in a measure for this. His tenant houses are well built and commodious, and are all painted and well-cared for. Every facility is at hand for the cultivation and handling of the crops through every stage and process, and the use of machinery wherever possible is the rule.

Mr. Ricks was married in 1874, to Miss Tempie Thorne, of the prominent family of that name, and their union has been a notably congenial and happy one. They have no children; but the children of others, not so well provided with this world's goods, have many times had reason to bless their goodness and liberality in the furnishing of means for education, etc.

As a banker, manufacturer, industrial captain and capitalist, the people of Rocky Mount respect and love Robert H. Ricks, for his rectitude, great ability, absolute justice and generosity; but it is as the young soldier of the South,

his heart fired with love of his state and with the daring and fortitude of his nature, that he is still dearer to them—the boy in homespun charging the house with his martyr comrade Wyatt at Bethel, and fleeing to the mountains rather than taste bitter surrender in the last sad hours of the conflict. A tie that links us with the loved Past and with the shades of those who died for the Lost Cause on a hundred battlefields, the living incarnation of the tremendous force that has resulted from the mingling and fusion of the honor and courage of the Old South, with the progress and industrial spirit of the New—

So, here we present him to you, "My Lords and Gentlemen," our First Citizen,, Senator-Soldier-Industrial Captain, and Master Builder; but above all, the type of which "Nature can stand up and say before all the world: 'This is a MAN.' "

ROCKY MOUNT'S TOBACCO MARKET

Five Warehouses and Large Number of Stemmeries---Pays Out One Million Annually

Ever since the pioneer days of the English colonists, tobacco has been inseparably interwoven with the history of Virginia and North Carolina. At first thought to be only a luxury, and even in some European Countries interdicted entirely, it was soon to become an article of commerce, and was even used as "Coin of The Realm"; many a good wife in the colonial days being bought with so many pounds of tobacco. It has now become almost a necessity and is one of the chief products of the south, and has long been the mainstay and source of wealth, (in some counties the only money crop) of the piedmont section of Virginia and North Carolina. But it is only in recent years that its growth has extended to the eastern section of the state. Many can remember its first introduction, and that the few that raised it had to seek distant markets, like Richmond, Petersburg and Danville for the disposal of their product, thus contributing to the growth and prosperity of distant cities.

About 22 years ago a tentative effort was made to establish a market at Rocky Mount (the first in eastern Carolina) which was partly unsuccessful, owing to more or less prejudice existing in the minds of many, who thought that nothing but cotton and peanuts could thrive in this section of the country. In the year 1890 two gentleman—Mr. S. S. Berger and Capt. J. O. W. Gravely—came to Rocky Mount, fresh from the city of Danville, with large experience in the warehouse business, with new ideas and methods, who, with the aid and co-operation of the good citizens of the town and surrounding country built two small warehouses, the combined capacity of which would not fill half of one of our five mammoth warehouses of today, and made another start. They soon put the market on its feet, overcoming all obstacles and prejudices, surmounting all difficulties and laid the foundation for the splendid achievement we see today, the best tobacco market in North Carolina, which, while not the largest in point of pounds sold, is recognized as the most stable market in the country, paying the highest average prices at all times. Today we have five large warehouses and numerous stemmeries and re-drying plants with ample capital, reaching into the hundreds of

thousands, with plants valued at more than half a million, and giving employment to more than one fourth of the population of our city.

In addition to the tobacco sold here, which is not more than half enough to supply the demand, our buyers have representatives on other smaller markets of the state and ship here annually millions of pounds to be handled at this point, thus running the total far above the actual figures given as sold on the market, and establishing Rocky Mount as the commercial centre of the east for tobacco, as she is the recognized centre for the sweet ripe tobacco, classed with the "Old Belt" that are so superior for their burning qualities and so much sought after by the manufacturers of smoking tobacco and cigarettes.

In the old days before the advent of tobacco, lands could be bought for a mere song, the best of them selling for \$10 to 15.00 per acre. The country was thinly settled, the farm houses dilapidated and old, the barns worn out and the lands unproductive. Now after 20 years of tobacco raising we see a change that reminds one of a fairy tale. Nice new farm houses, new barns, well built, improved lands that can not be bought some of them at all, and would readily bring \$40 to \$50 per acre, while the population has increased more than 100 per cent., and farmers ride around over good roads in carriages and automobiles, and are using the latest improved machinery and modern methods of cultivation.

Our town, then a sleepy little village, with one bank and a few stores, a mere railroad station, with less than 800 inhabitants, has more than doubled its population twice in the last two decades until now we find a busy, bustling, thriving, city of 12,000 people, with good paved streets; a fine system of water works, electric lights and sewerage, good hotels, churches and schools, while no town in the state has shown such progress, or is in a better financial condition, becoming easily the commercial centre of eastern North Carolina, and the natural market for the disposal of the products of the surrounding country.

The Tobacco market has grown from a small insignificant affair of 1890 selling less than a million pounds to one of the greatest in the state, selling within the past decade more than 100,000,000 lbs. of tobacco, for the enormous sum of nearly \$10,000,000.00. This added to the million or more dollars paid out in the way of salaries, payrolls and other expenses makes a grand total of more than \$11,000,000.00 that has gone into the hands of the farmers, merchants, bankers and others and contributed to the general welfare of the community. While the tobacco business is not responsible for all this change, yet it is a significant fact that it has taken place since the tobacco market was established and the growth of the market has gone hand in hand with the general improvement, and the starting of the new era of things is coexistent with that of the tobacco market.

Now a word to our farmer friends. They have kept pace with the new order of things and have contributed

their share to the prosperity above outlined, being the mainstay of the country and rendering the era of prosperity possible, and to them should be given more than a liberal share of credit. Unfortunately the seasons have been poor for the past few years and the crops have been worse than poor, and the farmer has suffered thereby, and some of them have become discouraged; but to the intelligent, who study the signs of the times, a brighter day is in store for the tobacco raiser. The trade conditions are better than ever before. The large companies are invading China, Japan, Corea and other countries, where the opium habit has enthralled the masses for centuries and are now supplanting that deadly curse with the cigarette, and the pipe, filled with fragrant North Carolina tobacco, and are emancipating those people from the slavery that has held them bound for years, and are doing beneficial work, paving the way for a more enlightened civilization.. The leaf tobacco dealers are extending their trade and finding new outlets for tobacco all the time, while independent manufacturers are multiplying rapidly on all sides. Thus the consumption of tobacco is rapidly increasing while the production is scarcely keeping pace with same. Then too with the new methods of fertilization, as taught by the government experts, improved fertilizers being used, the quality of the leaf will doubtless be improved also, and command a larger price—one that is remunerative, and it would be unwise for the farmer to abandon the production of tobacco just when the time is at hand when he can reap the full reward of his labor. It is a wise farmer that does not put all his eggs in one basket, but diversifies his crop, planting only so much as he can well care for and give the proper cultivation to same. Cotton is selling high now, but who knows when it will reach the low level of 1901-2 when it sold for 4 to 5c. and tobacco was selling at 10 to 12c. and but for that staple the whole country might have been bankrupt. So let's diversify the crops, raise some cotton, some peanuts and some tobacco, and if we fail on one crop we may hit it on another and thus continue the tide of prosperity that is sweeping over our fair land. We have the best land and the best people on earth and with the proper efforts put forth, all working together in a spirit of unanimity, employing the best and most scientific methods, we can make this section of the country blossom like the rose.

THE PLANTERS BANK

The Leading Financial Institution of Rocky Mount, and Nash and Edgecombe Counties---Has the Largest Resources

The banks of a city usually furnish an unfailing barometer by which to judge of its progressiveness and worth. If the banks are in full sympathy with every progressive movement, backing them up when consistent, with an eye always to helping forward the small business that is deserving, as well as the larger ones, the effect of such a policy is felt in the quickening of business in every channel of trade; and the city having such banks is bound to be a live and growing one.

THE PLANTERS BANK OF ROCKY MOUNT was born in the progressive spirit, and of men who typify the liberal and aggressive policy above outlined. In every movement for the upbuilding of the city and county since the organization of this bank, its officers, directors and stockholders have been leaders, and the support of this strong institution has been a chief reliance.

The men behind this bank, from its president on down, are men who have performed a large share in making the city and community what they are today and the large interests of these men are all centered here.

THE PLANTERS BANK was organized in 1899, to meet the demand for greater and more ample banking facilities brought about by the rapid growth of the city, and to foster and encourage new industries. It has been the uniform policy of the bank officials, as well as their pleasure, to encourage small depositors, liberally uphold them when deserving, and extend them every courtesy which the larger depositors receive.

The result of this policy can be plainly seen in the great popularity and strength of this bank among the smaller businesses and among the farmers of this section, as well as among the business concerns of larger capital and greater scope. In fact, the consideration with which this bank treats its customers, and the pleas-



PLANTERS BANK BUILDING



J. C. BRASWELL,
President



J. W. AYCOCK,
Cashier



W. W. AVERA,
Asst. Cashier

ant manner in which all business done with them is transacted has become axiomatic, the customers feeling that in the bank officials, they have friends and valuable business advisers as well as bankers.

A bank conducted along these lines was bound to become a tremendous force in the community, and the following comparative statement will furnish some idea of the rapid and substantial growth in capital, deposits and resources, of this popular institution.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT

| | Capital | Surplus and Profits | Deposits | Resources |
|-------------------|---------|---------------------|------------|------------|
| Jan. 1, 1904..... | 40,000 | 17,458.91 | 158,833.01 | 224,694.59 |
| Jan. 1, 1905..... | 40,000 | 21,785.44 | 160,314.05 | 235,868.94 |
| Jan. 1, 1906..... | 40,000 | 28,704.04 | 197,340.19 | 270,395.06 |
| Jan. 1, 1910..... | 100,000 | 50,000.00 | 293,715.19 | 444,613.52 |
| Jan. 1, 1911..... | 100,000 | 55,178.69 | 341,569.65 | 501,257.58 |

THE PLANTERS BANK numbers its depositors in every branch of trade and in all professions. One of its greatest elements of strength lies in the great number of prosperous and influential farmers who are among its most valued patrons and friends. A number of the leading banking institutions in New York, Baltimore, Norfolk and Richmond, are its correspondents.

The Board of Directors is an especially fine one, every name on it standing for honor, financial strength, courtesy, care, and efficiency. The following stockholders are members of the Board of Directors: M. C. Braswell (merchant, planter and capitalist, Battleboro, N. C.) H. B. Bryan, (Planter, Battleboro, N. C.) Geo. S. Edwards (head of G. S. Edwards & Co. Wholesale Grocers of Rocky Mount) M. R. Braswell (Physician retired and planter) J. R. Sorsby (head of Standard Hardware Co.) J. C. Braswell (President) Jno. M. Sherrod (Planter, Whitakers, N. C., and Vice-President) W. H. Newell (General Supt. A. C. L. Railroad Co.,) W. T. Williford (Merchant) W. S. Wilkinson (of Wilkinson, Bulluck & Co.) H. B. Marriott (Physician of Battleboro.)

The above names are a guarantee which no man can gainsay, and the sufficiency of which almost every citizen

of Rocky Mount and this section fully knows that the affairs of this bank must be conducted with the greatest measure of care, ability and integrity known to the business of banking.

THE GUIDING HAND.

An army, no matter of how brave and valiant individual units it might be composed, would fail in battle without a great and resourceful commander. And also, the policy, and success of any business of consequence must reflect in a great measure, the qualities of the guiding and directing force. No institution like THE PLANTERS BANK could have been created and built to its present magnificent potentiality in the business life of Rocky Mount, without an industrial captain at its head that combined in his character, the elements of splendid ability, unquestionable integrity, and a natural capacity for leadership of men. James C. Braswell, the President of The Planters Bank, has all these and more. His training has been ideal, and a great business ability and fine sense of honor, were his, by inheritance. His father, "Squire" T. P. Braswell, was for two score years, one of the most influential, most respected and best loved men in this part of the state.

From his early youth Mr. J. C. Braswell has been one of the towering forces for good and for progress in Rocky Mount, lending his support to every worthy cause and frequently leading where a high order of courage has been required. He is President of The Planters Bank, President and Treasurer of The Rocky Mount Sash & Blind Co., one of our largest manufacturing enterprises; of Braswell & Levy, among the largest leaf tobacco dealers in North Carolina; President of The Rocky Mount Hosiery Mills; President of The Marygold Heights Land Co.; Secretary of Wilkinson, Bulluck & Co., leading insurance agents and real estate dealers; Treasurer of the Underwriters Fire Insurance Company of Rocky Mount; Vice-President of The Rocky Mount Savings & Trust Co.; and President of The Citizens Building & Loan Association, which is performing such a fine service in making Rocky Mount a city of home-owners. His high standing in banking circles is shown by the fact that he is First Vice-President of The North Carolina Bankers Association, a post of honor to which none but the state's soundest and ablest financiers are ever elected.

One would think it difficult for a man carrying such extensive and varied business responsibilities, to find any time for public duties beyond those of a private citizen. And it speaks volumes for the apparently unlimited capacity of this man, that he has found time to wield one of the largest influences for clean and economical municipal government in Rocky Mount for twenty years past. For 17 years consecutively, Mr. Braswell has been a member of the Board of Aldermen, and one of the controlling forces in that body. He is now Chairman of the Finance Committee,

which has in charge all the city's financial affairs. He is also one of the most influential members and supporters of the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce, and was its first President.

The power and capacity of such a man actively enlisted as Mr. Braswell has always been in the forces of Weal and Progress, is incalculable; and adding to this the fact that with his business and other connections, he commands almost unlimited resources, speaking in a local sense, it can readily be seen to what extent the city must ever remain his debtor.

It should be said too, in this connection, that as Mr. Braswell and his associates have to a large degree, all been "the architects of their own fortunes," some of them coming up under very adverse circumstances, those honestly struggling to rise, have always found in him, a sane and friendly adviser, and one who does not hesitate to extend a helping hand in time of need.

Mr. Braswell is a large owner of Rocky Mount real estate and of farming lands. His home on North Church St., is one of the handsomest in this part of the state.

Mr. Braswell was married about ten years ago, to Miss Grizzelle Burton, the charming and accomplished daughter of Mr. R. C. Burton. Three children, two boys, Jas. Craig, Jr., and Robert Russell, both fine and intelligent young fellows, and one charming little girl, Lillian, have blessed the home life of Mr. and Mrs. Braswell.

Mr. Braswell was born in 1868, and therefore is now only 43 years of age—scarcely yet in the full maturity of manhood.

THE VICE PRESIDENT.

The Vice-President of The Planters Bank, Mr. John M. Sherrod, is a man "you can tie to"—a business man of sound worth, who has been successful to a very gratifying degree. His name and character stand for integrity. Mr. Sherrod is one of the largest land-owners in Edgecombe County, and one of its wealthiest citizens. With the large resources, he has scores of time extended his hand with financial assistance to those in need, and scores have cause to bless his liberality and generous nature.

THE CASHIER.

The cashier of The Planters Bank is Mr. John W. Aycock, and it would be hard to find in all North Carolina, a man better fitted for the responsible duties of the position.

Mr. Aycock was born Oct. 4th, 1872 on a farm in Wilson Co., N. C. His father early moved to Johnston Co., and there Mr. Aycock was reared on the farm, developing that self-reliance, and sense of responsibility which many

say is hard to acquire elsewhere. Mr. Aycock attended school and held a number of minor positions up to 1892, when he went to Goldsboro as bookkeeper for B. M. Privett & Co., Wholesale Grocers. While with this firm, the cashier of The Bank of Wayne, noting the strict business habits and fine ability of the young man, (who was practically a stranger to him) offered him a position as asst. bookkeeper in the bank. Mr. Aycock accepted, and, as has always been his record, "made good." This was Jan. 1, 1894. In August 1900, Mr. Aycock was elected Assistant Cashier of The Bank of Wayne and held that position with great satisfaction to the bank until April 1, 1905 when he resigned to accept the responsible and lucrative office of State Bank Examiner for North Carolina. Mr. Aycock's services to the state were eminently satisfactory, but he resigned; and went back in the banking business in 1906, organizing and launching a new bank, The National Bank of Greenville, N. C., and being elected its Cashier. In less than a year, this bank under Mr. Aycock's administration had grown until its deposits were above \$125,000.00, a fine record for the first year.

In Oct. 1907, Mr. Aycock was elected Cashier of The Planters Bank of Rocky Mount, and accepted, resigning his position with the Greenville bank, and coming to Rocky Mount.

Since his coming to this city, Mr. Aycock's influence has steadily been growing, and he is today, not only one of the most popular bank officials in Rocky Mount, but a highly valued and very useful citizen. He is a director of The Rocky Mount Savings & Trust Co., a stockholder in the Rocky Mount Hosiery Mills, and a Director and, Secretary & Treasurer of The Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Aycock was married in Dec. 1903, to Miss Kate Darden, charming daughter of the late Capt. W. A. Darden of Greene County.

THE ASSISTANT CASHIER.

The assistant cashier of The Planters Bank is Mr. William Whitehead Avera, a native Nash County boy, and one of the most popular and most respected of the younger business element of the city. Mr. Avera was born in Rocky Mount Dec. 12, 1877 and was educated at Oak Ridge Institute. His first business experience was as bookkeeper for The Tar River Lumber Co. At the organization of The Planters Bank in 1899, the stockholders recognizing his fine character and business capacity, elected him bookkeeper, in which position he served most acceptably for 3 years, and was then promoted to the position of Assistant Cashier.

He resigned in 1904 to go into the mercantile business. However he came to recognize that banking was his

proper vocation, and in April 1910, on the resignation of Mr. C. V. Brown to be Asst. State Bank Examiner, Mr. Avera was again elected, and accepted the position of Asst. Cashier of The Planters Bank. Mr. Avera is efficient, and courteous, and possesses the full confidence of the public. The future should be bright for him. He married Miss Kate Rawlings, daughter of Mr. F. M. Rawlings, of Battleboro. Mrs. Avera died in Feb. 1907.

Mr. Peter B. Doub, the bank's bookkeeper, is a young man of fine parts, who is competently and satisfactorily filling a position that requires great accuracy and fine ability. Mr. Doub is a native of Lee County and is 20 years of age.

Mr. Sam T. Mallison the bank's collector, it is safe to say, has not a superior in town in his work, which really calls for a high order of courtesy, diplomacy and business ability. He is always courteous, and while looking closely after the bank's interests, he yet has the tact and gift of maintaining the most pleasant relations with the people with whom he comes in contact.

In fact, as has been stated it has become an axiom with this bank and its employees, that no matter what sort or class of business is to be transacted, the utmost courtesy and consideration on the part of the bank must obtain and be exercised.

And so admirably have the officials and employees of this institution been selected, that the practice of this rule is not only not a burden, but is a pleasant privilege. Appreciation of business is not only felt, but is shown in all their dealings with the public.

THE BANK BUILDING.

This article should not be closed without a word about the elegant building which The Planters Bank owns and in which it does business.

The bank building is a massive 3-story structure of pressed brick and granite. Architecturally, it is of very handsome design and appearance, and is thoroughly modern in its appointments and conveniences. It fronts 40 feet on Main St.; running west on Sunset Avenue 110 feet to Howard St.; fronting 40 ft. on Howard St. That part of the building on Howard St., and Sunset Ave., is occupied on the first floor by Wilkinson, Bulluck & Co., and the Underwriters Fire Insurance Co., the second floor by offices, and the third floor by fraternal organizations. The banking rooms on Main St., and Sunset Ave., are large and commodious and handsomely finished, in all respects fit quarters for this strong and leading financial institution.

NASH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS. (As of March 1, 1911.)
By ROBERT E. RANSON, County Superintendent of Schools.

It will be the purpose of this article to give some information in regard to the school system of Nash county. Frequently questions are asked concerning the number of schools, number of children, and about other matters of concern to those who have an interest in the welfare of Nash County. It will be our purpose to answer briefly questions. It is felt that the people should have as full and accurate information about their schools as it is possible to give. Unfortunately this writer hasn't at hand statistics showing a history of the growth of the school system in Nash County, but he is persuaded that the record of growth has been most remarkable, and he has been told that wonderful improvements in school circles have taken place within the past ten (10) years. Some of the figures are for the year 1909-1910, as the final reports for the present school year have not been sent in. Again the totals with the exception of the Census reports, do not include the schools of Rocky Mount, Spring Hope, and Sharpsburg, as these schools operate under special charters.

According to the Census reports there are 6197 white school children in the county and 4199 colored children, making a total of 10396. In Rocky Mount, there are 745 white children and 514 colored on the Nash side; in Sharpsburg 54 whites and 50 colored, and in Spring Hope there are 319 whites and 406 colored. In Nash County outside of the school districts operating under special charters there are 5079 white children and 3229 colored children. During this school year, 52 schools with 88 teachers are being taught for the white children. 32 of these are one-teacher schools. In the number of teachers, all the teachers at Whitakers (4) and at Battleboro (4) are counted, although the children on the Edgecombe side are not given in the Census report. For the 3229 colored children there are 38 schools with 39 teachers. Last year \$16654.10 was paid to white teachers and \$3857.12 to colored teachers. This year the amount to white teachers will be a fraction more, while the amount to colored teachers will be a little less. These figures do not include the amounts paid teachers in the schools operating under special charters nor to the teachers in the Battleboro and Whitakers schools. The financial report made by the Co. Supt. in July of last year showed that the total school fund for the year 1909-1910 was \$44306.29. Of this amount \$4742.57 was a balance on hand June 30, 1909; \$21689.46 county school fund; \$2390.96, fines, etc.; sale of property \$298.68; examination of teachers \$180; insurance \$1750; total county funds not including balance \$26313.23. The total local tax for was \$7671.31. The total received from the State last year was \$4725.43, this including \$2500 loan fund and \$500 high schools. The total fund was increased by private donations of \$85 for libraries and \$768.75 for building. \$39945.42 of the above amount was expended, leaving on hand July 1 1910 a balance of \$4360.87. \$21526.6 was

spent for teachers and superintendent; \$9404.42 was spent for buildings and supplies; \$1552.01 was paid for administration, this including \$755.16 for county treasurer; mileage and per diem of county board, charges for taking census, holding elections, etc., \$802.92 represents the borrowed money repaid; \$2375.11 was transferred to public high school fund, and \$4284.36 was paid to the schools operating under special charters. The teachers of the high schools were paid from the amount transferred to the high school fund, and the salaries of the high school teachers are not included in the amount given above for white teachers.

The special tax for this year will be \$9559.12 and the general county tax will amount to \$22473.21. These are the amounts after all errors, insolvents and the sheriff's commissions have been deducted. It is impossible to tell at this time what the other funds will amount to, as this will not be known until the end of school year.

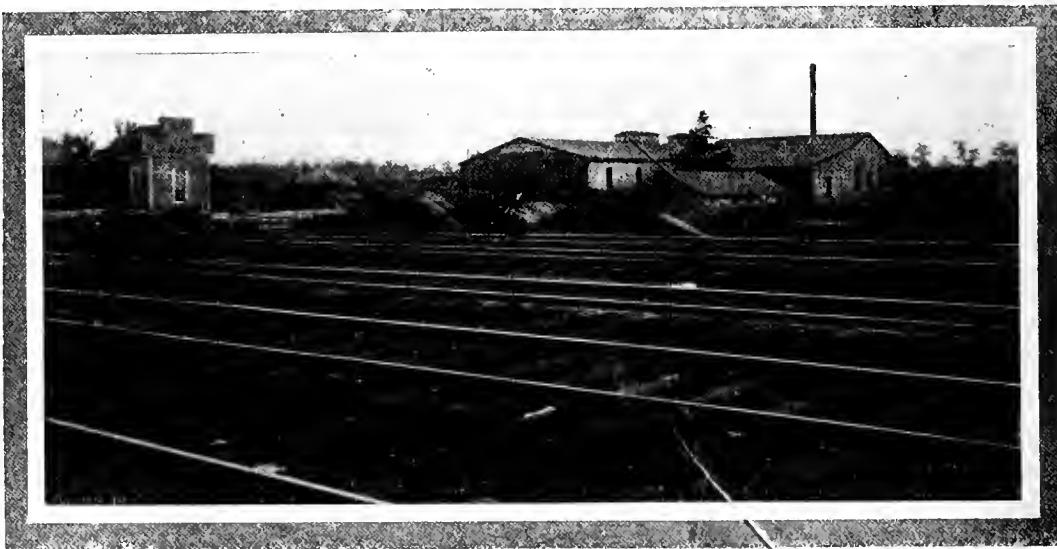
There are twenty-two local tax districts in the county, seven having been established during the past year, adding nearly \$2,000 to the local tax fund. There are thirty-three rural libraries, eleven of these having been established within the past two years. There are fifty-one white school houses with an estimated value of \$39,200 and thirty-seven colored school houses valued at \$6,470, making a total of \$46,170, forty-six of the white schools and four of the colored schools are reported as equipped with patent desks. At Mt. Pleasant and Red Oak High Schools handsome dormitories were built last year. These, with the furniture, are worth fully \$6,000. Free tuition is given all high school pupils of the county at these schools. Board is given at cost. Free tuition is also given high school pupils at the Whitakers school, which is also one of the State high schools.

Of the 6,197 white children of the county 3,389 live in districts where the term has been extended by local tax. During the school year 1909-10, more than \$1,600 was expended in the various districts, not local tax districts, for extending the school term. \$1,521.75 was raised by the teachers and pupils of the county for Betterment Work. The money was expended in painting school houses, in buying pictures, teacher's desks and chairs, window shades, and other things that make school houses more attractive. This year at the suggestion of the county superintendent prizes of \$25 have been offered to the two schools raising the most money for Betterment Work. One prize will go to the school having a census of more than 100 and the other to the school having a census of less than 100.

ROCKY MOUNT SASH AND BLIND COMPANY.

This company is one of the most successful manufacturing enterprises in the city, and one of the best managed. The high grade of work done has created for this plant, a wide and very desirable market for its product. Among the different products turned out are Sash, Doors, Blinds, Mouldings, Mantels and Turned Work. Everything required in a building of wood can be furnished by this plant. A full line of glass, in every size that can be desired, is also carried. The reputation for making the best grade of furnishings in their line, has been steadily built up by the most rigid inspection of every article turned out, only the most expert labor being used, and honest and conscientious filling of every order. The fine inside work in many of the handsomest Rocky Mount residences and other buildings and indeed all over Eastern North Carolina and elsewhere, testify to the high quality of the products of this plant.

This company has ample capital behind it and is therefore never at a loss for any funds necessary for improvements and enlargement. Its president, Mr. J. C. Braswell, is one of the great industrial and financial leaders of this section. The active manager is Mr. J. C. Wynne, a man with long experience in the business and most admirably equipped in the way of ability and managerial capacity for his important and responsible duties.



THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

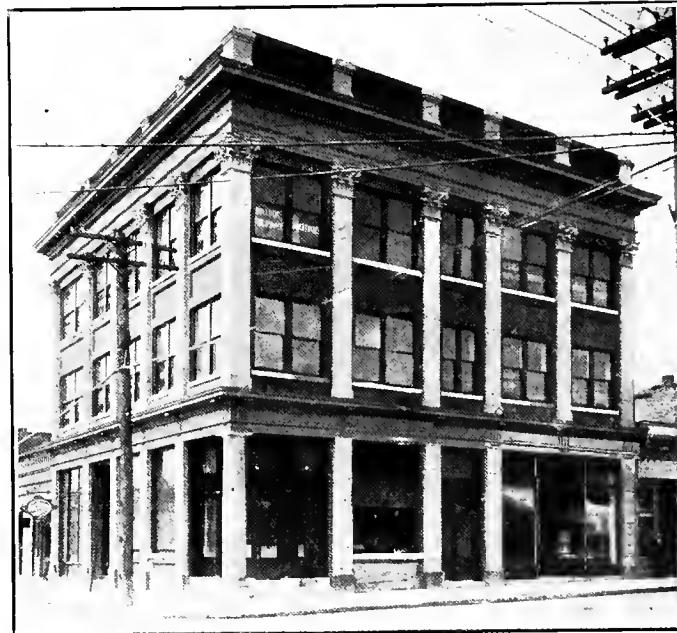
Rocky Mount's growth has been unprecedented, but no more marked than one of its most progressive banking institutions, the First National Bank, and the only national bank doing business in Rocky Mount. The bank received its charter from the national government in 1904, and began business on the morning of Aug. 16th, that year, since which time it has grown in strength and usefulness.

Its directors are R. D. Bulluck, P. C. Shore, Gaston G. Levy, T. T. Thorne, W. H. Horne, Geo. L. Wimberly, Jr., Sidney P. Hilliard and Jos. B. Ramsey, business men in whose judgment and integrity the people of Rocky Mount have full confidence.

Under the national banking system, it is the duty of these directors to meet once each month and direct the affairs of the institution, and they perform that duty with unfailing regularity. The strong arm of the government requires that each national bank be conducted on a high plane and in such a manner as to safe-guard the funds of the bank and to further the financial interests of its depositors. The conservative, liberal and independent policy of the First National Bank has made it a principal factor in the financial life of this community.

The first home of the bank was in the Tillery Building, on North Main Street, but recently it has established new quarters in the handsome Shore Building, corner Tarboro and Washington Streets, so that its present banking rooms compare favorably with any in Eastern North Carolina.

Among the stockholders of the bank are many of the first citizens of Nash and Edgecombe Counties, in which



HOME OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK

two counties the city of Rocky Mount is situated. The stock of the bank is so well scattered, and its directors such a representative body, that the bank's policy is assured to be a broad and liberal one. Its officers have tried first, to safe-guard the funds of the bank and then to serve the interests of the public in every way possible.

By straightforward, liberal, progressive business methods and fair treatment of its patrons, the First National Bank has taken strong hold on the affections and confidence of the people, and its doors, during banking hours, are constantly kept ajar by loyal men, women and children, who have become acquainted with its Savings Department slogan "Safest for Savings".

The following comparisons give a true estimate of the bank's present condition and it's progress:

| | Aug. 16, 1904 | March 13, 1911 |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Loans and Discounts | \$ 20.00 - | \$165,760.89 |
| Surplus and Profits | 60.00 | 5,473.30 |
| Deposits | 1,349.49 | 205,929.07 |
| Resources | 27,204.16 | 262,122.23 |

Those in need of the services of a sound banking institution are generally more or less interested in the personnel of its active officers, as a legitimate business is likely to succeed only under active, wise and prudent management. The customers of the First National Bank have every assurance that its management is second to none in this city.

The president, Mr. Jos. B. Ramsey, is among the first young men of Eastern North Carolina. On both sides of honorable parentage, it is but natural that in the son should be reflected the sturdy characteristics of the parents. His father was the late beloved and lamented F. Y. Ramsey, who spent his entire life in this community, and was one of its leading citizens. His mother, Miss Lucy Bunn, of Nash County, was a member of the prominent family of that name, and is remembered for her lovely character and disposition. Mr. Ramsey was prepared for college in the High School of Rocky Mount, and was graduated from the University of North Carolina with distinction. He afterwards read law under the late Judge



JOS. B. RAMSEY, President

James C. McRae, at the State University, from which he received his degree of Bachelor of Laws, and began the practice of his profession in Rocky Mount. He enjoys a large and growing practice, and ranks high as an active lawyer and banker. Few men at the age of twenty-nine have accomplished more — mayor of the city, judge of the Recorder's Court and president of a leading bank, and yet Mr. Ramsey wears his mantle without ostentation or conceit. He has always been a strong supporter toward any movement for the up-building and improvement of Rocky Mount, and has frequently urged upon those in authority the need of public improvements. He is one of the city's most progressive citizens. By training, temperament and natural ability, he is eminently qualified to fill the position he holds.

Dr. Sidney P. Hilliard, Vice-President, is a large property owner in and out of Rocky Mount, and is one of the best known and most accomplished dentists in the State. A pupil for several years of the celebrated Richard B Winder, Dean of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, he has achieved not only business and professional success, but has a most desirable clientele. When elected President of the North Carolina Dental Society in 1889, he was the youngest member ever so honored. He was a member of the State Dental Examining Board from 1893 to 1908, during which period of fifteen years he rendered valuable services to the State and his profession. He lends strength to any enterprise with which he is connected.

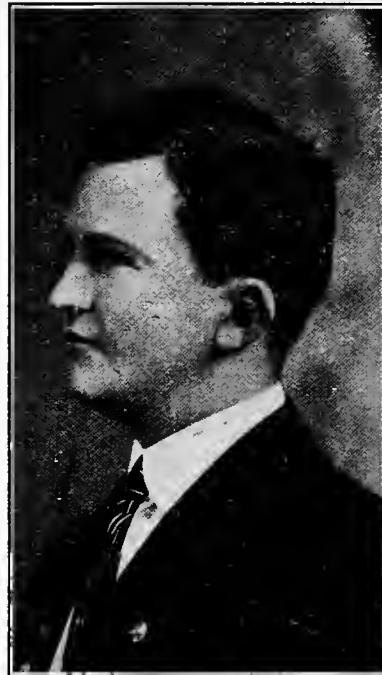
Dr. G. L. Wimberly, Vice-President of the First National Bank, is one of the most substantial citizens of Rocky Mount. Enjoying a large practice, and having invested wisely and prudently, he is regarded as one of the most prominent business men of the city. His advice and counsel largely shapes the policy of the bank and materially adds to its rapid advancement. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Wimberley, two of Edgecombe County's most lovable citizens. Embraced in their long life of usefulness are many acts of charity and kindness. Dr. Wimberley by marriage is most highly connected, having married Miss Mary Bunn, daughter of Hon. and Mrs B. H. Bunn of Nash, the mention of whose



R. B. DAVIS, JR., Cashier

names is suggestive of the highest type of Southern honor and chivalry. Mrs. Wimberley, by her lovely disposition and charming personality, adorns the home of the doctor and has greatly assisted him in reaching the commanding position he holds in the community.

The Bank's Cashier, Mr. R. B. Davis, Jr., is a native of New Hanover County and a member of a distinguished family, on his mother's side largely identified with the early development of the Cape Fear Section. His father is a native of Virginia and a prominent Confederate soldier, besides being a man of wide learning and information. Mr. Davis first began his business career in the employ of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, at Wilmington, N. C., with which Company he was associated when transferred to a more important position at Rocky Mount. Soon after coming here, he forsaw the progress Rocky Mount was destined to make and resigned his position to enter business for himself. He engaged in the insurance and real estate business and became a leader in the insurance life of Rocky Mount. Mr. Davis afterwards accepted a position as secretary and treasurer of the Rocky Mount Insurance & Realty Company, a corporation doing a very large business here, and still later became Special Agent for the Underwriters Fire Insurance Company, of this city, from which position he resigned to become cashier of the First National Bank. Mr. Davis has had varied experience in the business world, and is unusually well qualified for his present position. No man in this community is more highly esteemed, or enjoys the confidence of the people to a greater extent. He is a member of the City Board of Assessors, and is perhaps more familiar with local real estate values than any man in the city. Patrons of the bank, and citizens generally, when in need of information concerning property values, invariably seek his counsel. He is at present President of the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce and a member of its directorate. No man in Rocky Mount has labored more faithfully and unselfishly for the growth of the city than he, and his efforts have borne good fruit. Mr. Davis' ability, integrity and business judgment mark him as a man of the highest qualities. A few years ago he was married to Miss Annie Lee Bunn, a



S. G. SILLS, Assistant Cashier

daughter of the late B. H. Bunn, Ex-Congressman from this District, who perhaps had a wider influence in Nash County than any man who ever lived in its borders. The unprecedented growth of the First National Bank is largely due to Mr. Davis' able management and the confidence the public reposes in him.

Mr. S. G. Sills, Assistant Cashier, is one of the most competent accountants in the city. His uniform courtesy makes it a great pleasure to transact business with him, and his reputation for integrity is firmly established and beyond question. His father is the esteemed Clerk of the Superior Court of Nash County, and the name of Sills, wherever it is known, signifies honesty of purpose and faithful performance of every trust. Mr. Sills is a most valuable man to the bank, and has added largely to its friends and prestige.

Benjam'in H. Bunn, Bookkeeper for the First National Bank, is a young man of promise and counts his friends by his acquaintances. He is adding to the popularity of the bank by his pleasing manners and attention to the wants of its patrons.

Miss Sarah Gorham, Stenographer, by efficiency and by the charm of person and manner, is a valuable assistant to the working force of the First National Bank.

Hon. T. T. Thorne, Attorney for the First National Bank, is widely and favorably known both at home and abroad. The people of his city have honored him continuously for almost two decades, and to every position of trust that he has been called, he has always answered with the verdict of "well done and with clean hands". Mr. Thorne combines all of the qualities of an able lawyer, a man of the highest personal integrity, a business man of pronounced ability, and a very attractive personality.

HON. T. T. THORNE

Lawyer, Senator and Mayor

Theophilus T. Thorne, the subject of this sketch, has been for twenty years, since his first coming to Rocky Mount, one of the effective forces for good in the community. Eminent as a lawyer, one of the leaders of the bar of the Fourth Judicial District, he is also one of the most influential public leaders of the city and county, a man whom the people feel that they can trust without hazard, and who has ever justified their faith.

Mr. Thorne was born in Edgecombe county, N. C. Aug. 9, 1867, and is therefore 43 years of age having scarcely yet reached the full vigor and intellectual power of mature manhood. He is a son of the late T. T. Thorne, Sr., who was a prominent citizens of Halifax county, and of Mrs. Mary (Cutchin) Thorne, of the well known Edgecombe family of Cutchin.

Mr. Thorne was educated in the public schools of his county and at Whitakers Academy. He studied law under his brother, Hon. W. C. Thorne, and under R. O. Burton, Jr., one of the most gifted lawyers of the Raleigh Bar. He received license to practice law in the fall of 1889, and at once located at Enfield, N. C., and began the practice with his brother above referred to. In 1890, Mr. Thorne moved to Battleboro, N. C., where he remained one year, during which time he was elected Mayor of that town. In 1890, he came to Rocky Mount for permanent location.

It was quickly observed by the public that he was a lawyer of unusual ability, both in thorough mastery of the profound and intricate principles of the Law, and as an advocate at the bar. And it was also seen that he was the sort of MAN in whom confidence could safely be reposed. Therefore, he prospered, and developed and broadened. He soon formed a partnership with the well-loved and distinguished Judge Dorsey Battle, which connection continued until the election of Judge Battle in 1898 to the Judgeship of the Eastern Criminal Court. In 1896, Mr. Thorne was elected a member of the Board of Aldermen of the city, and was re-elected consecutively for 13 years, until he was chosen as Mayor of the city in May 1909. During 12 of the 13 years Mr. Thorne served on the Board of Aldermen, he was Mayor Pro Tem, and during three of these years, he was both Mayor Pro Tem and City Clerk. In 1896, the year of the disgraceful Fusion catastrophe in North Carolina Mr. Thorne was the Democratic Candidate for the House of Representatives in Nash county, and went down to defeat with the balance of the ticket in the general disaster. In 1906, the Democratic party in the seventh senatorial district com-

posed of Nash, Wilson and Franklin counties, nominated Mr. Thorne for the State Senate, and he was elected by the overwhelming majority



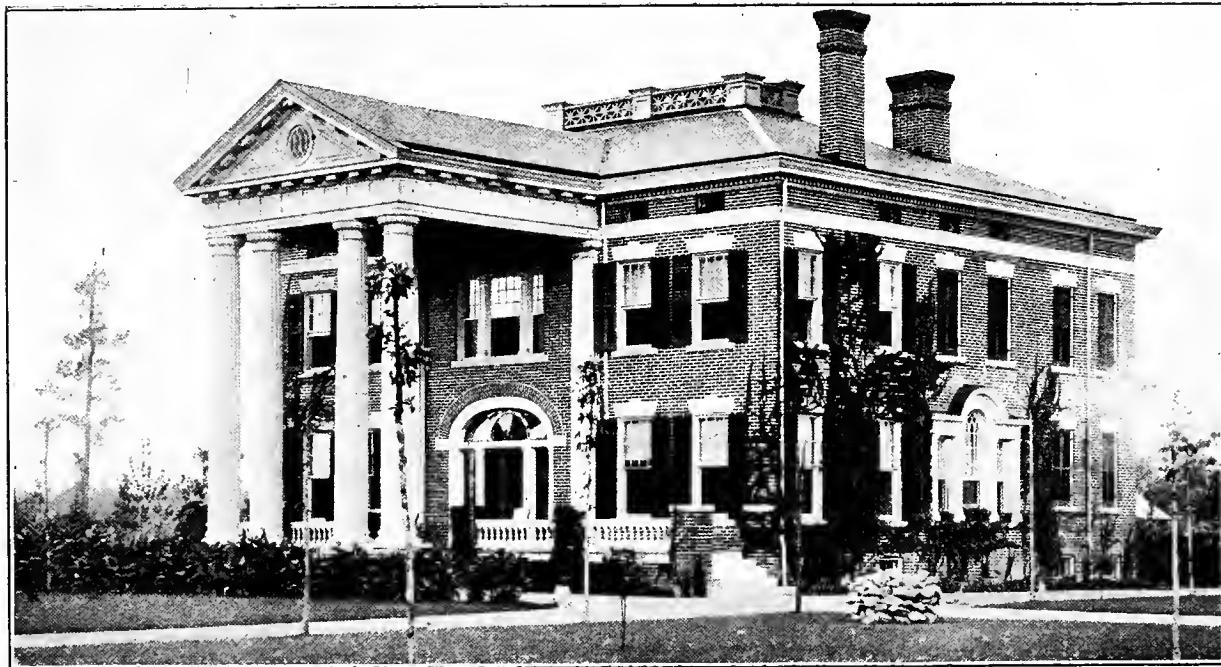
HON. T. T. THORNE

of over 4200 in the district. He was an able and conscientious representative, at once taking high rank in the Senate. In 1909, as hereinbefore stated, Mr. Thorne was elected Mayor and Recorder of the city of Rocky Mount, and his administration of the city government set a high water mark for clean government, enforcement of the law and general efficiency. He resigned the Mayoralty upon his reelection to the State Senate in the fall of 1910. In the Senate of 1911, it can safely be said, that no Senator stood higher in the matter of influence or in the respect and esteem felt for him by his colleagues, than "the handsome and silver tongued Senator from Nash," as Mr. Thorne was termed by Senator Long of Iredell. His committee assignments clearly proved that he was regarded as one of the very ablest men in the Senate. He was Chairman of the Committees on Corporation Commission; on Legislative Apportionment; on Rules; and on Enrolled Bills; four of the most important Chairmanships, and was a member of the following committees: Banks and Currency; Counties, Cities and Towns; Election Law; Finance; Institutions for the Blind; Insurance; Judiciary; Public Buildings and Grounds; and on Railroads. As the important work of the session was done in committees, it can be seen how far reaching was the influence of the Senator from Nash. And be it said to his eternal honor, that when the question came up of voting or not voting for an anti-trust law "with teeth," and the different large interests had filled Raleigh with a strong lobby to defeat an effective bill, although all sorts of pressure was brought to bear, and "the common folks at home" had no one there to look out for them, Senator Thorne stood true to the people constituting himself their spokesman, and cast his vote and influence for the Turlington Bill, which was the anti-trust law "with teeth". It was defeated by two votes, but not by the help of the Senator from Nash. This is the sort of service the people do not forget, and Mr. Thorne's fidelity to the people and his signal ability, it is felt by his friends, must carry him still higher in the public service.

Mr. Thorne was married in 1892 to Miss Louisa C. Fountain, accomplished

daughter of Mr. S. K. Fountain of this city. Mr. and Mrs. Thorne have three intelligent and interesting children; Spencer, Sallie and Randolph.

Mr. Thorne is a very extensive owner of Rocky Mount real estate and besides his political prominence, is intimately concerned with a number of interests and concerns that are bearing a large share in the progress and upbuilding of the city and this section. He is a Director and Attorney for the First National Bank, a director of the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Rocky Mount Graded Schools, President of the Nash County Sunday School Association, and is a Trustee of the First Methodist Church of Rocky Mount. His large influence, and the force of his strong personality can always be counted upon to be thrown in favor of the things that contribute to the religious, political, moral and industrial good of his city and state. The people always know "where to find" T. T. Thorne, and it is this, as well as other things, that accounts for his wide popularity and his strong hold on the confidence of the people.



Macharen, Residence of Mr. J. W. Hines, Rocky Mount, N. C.

Mr. J. W. Hines, One of Eastern North Carolina's Most Resourceful Industrial Generals. The Man More Than Any Other To Whom Rocky Mount Owes its Largest Industrial Plant

There have been few movements for the progress and upbuilding of Rocky Mount in which the quiet but strong hand of Mr. J. W. Hines has not been one of the most potent forces. There is no glare of lights or sounding of

trumpets about the work of this man, but to those who have been associated with him and others who have become familiar with his methods, he is known as a hard and indomitable fighter, and one who always WINS. Mr. Hines is a native of Pitt Co., N. C. but removed to Wilson, N. C., when young and was reared there. He is a descendant of the Hines and Johnson families of Old Sparta, Edgecombe county, N. C. He came to Rocky Mount when this city was a small village. From the first, Mr. Hines believed firmly in the future of Rocky Mount, and with the clear business insight and judgment which have become characteristic of him, he laid his plans far into the future, and quietly and unostentatiously worked up to them.

Possessing the rare quality of being able to wait patiently for the maturing and operating of his plans, and rarely if ever making a mistake in his judgment of the direction and magnitude of the town's progress, he has bought and sold more real estate than any other individual in the city, and this connected with his large industrial operations, has made him one of the city's wealthiest citizens. And be it said to his credit, that his great ability, time and money, have never failed to be placed freely at the service of Rocky Mount, when necessity has arisen. When the Rocky Mount Tobacco Market was in its infancy and its success seemed largely problematical, the support of Mr. Hines was a large factor. At one time; when all the tobacco was being sent away from this city for re-drying. The American Tobacco Co., offered to re-dry their tobacco in Rocky Mount and thus employ a large number of laborers, if they could secure a large prize house for the purpose. Without hesitation, Mr. Hines stepped down into the breach and built the prize-house, and also built the largest warehouse on this market at that time for the sale of leaf tobacco.

When the place of the location of the large A. C. L. Railroad Shops, was in question, few people had any idea that Rocky Mount would be able to secure them. Mr. Hines, comprehensively surveying the situation, thought he saw a chance to secure them for Rocky Mount. So, quietly, on his own initiative, he began taking the matter up by correspondence and by personal interviews with the highest officials of the Railroad. Repeated interviews with the continual and persistent presentation by Mr. Hines of his case, resulted in a telegram from Mr. Walters, requesting Mr. Hines to meet him in Wilmington. When Mr. Hines arrived in Wilmington, he found that he had won his case. The plans had been prepared, a map showing the land the railroad wished to secure for the shops was exhibited and a definite proposition made to locate the shops in Rocky Mount. At this interview the matter was settled and Mr. Hines came back to Rocky Mount to arrange for the city to carry out its share of the contract which he had assured the officers would be gladly done. On his return, he quietly made the announcement to a few astounded friends. The shops came, and with them came a new era of prosperity to the city. This was undoubtedly the largest service ever rendered to Rocky Mount by an individual, but so unassuming is this man and so averse to any kind of publicity as to his work, that no doubt a large proportion of the public now hears of the matter for the first time.

And the editors of this work wish to state in this connection, that it was only after the hardest sort of persistence that they succeeded in getting the facts from which they have written this article, so disinclined is Mr. Hines even at this late day to receive any notoriety in the matter. But Rocky Mount and her people are entitled to the facts. Another instance when the business judgment of this man has inured greatly to the benefit of the city, was in the purchase of a site for the West Side Graded School. He secured a price of \$800.00 on the lot on which the building now stands, Objections were heard that the lot was too far out. He strongly urged its purchase. Using the same foresight he has used in his private purchases, he believed that the lot would greatly enhance in value; and this lot was finally purchased, and is easily today worth \$10,000.00.

Mr. Hines and the corporate interests which he controls have put more bricks into brick walls than any one else.

Mr. Hines is largely interested in a number of the most important corporations in the city, and has planned and worked out large enterprises with unvarying success and superb generalship. Well versed in the intricate art and use of diplomacy, with a smooth, even temperament, but withal, possessing a tenacity of purpose that has become axiomatic, he is known as a fighter to be feared, and one who has never lost a battle. He enjoys to the fullest extent, the implicit confidence of his associates and of the entire community in both his business capacity and his personal integrity.

Although interested in various other enterprises, his principal business, and that with which he is most closely connected and best known, is the manufacture and sale of ice. Mr. Hines is probably the largest individual stockholder in ice factories in North Carolina. The Rocky Mount Corporation, The Rocky Mount Ice & Fuel Co., in which Mr. Hines is the largest stockholder and the moving spirit, includes among its stockholders a group of men who represent larger financial strength than is represented by any other Rocky Mount concern.

Associated with him in the active conduct of the ice business, are his two sons, Thomas M. Hines, and J. W. Hines, Jr. Although these young men are only two years out of college, they are showing the metal of trained and seasoned business men, and are among the most respected and popular of the younger business element of the city and section. Thomas M. Hines is handling the large shipping and re-icing business at the factory with great credit to himself and the business. J. W. Hines, Jr., by his courtesy, promptness and general efficiency, is giving a most satisfactory service to the public in the city delivery. These young men give fine promise of being worthy successors to their father in years to come.

Mr. J. W. Hines Sr., besides his business interests, can always be counted on to give substantial support to every movement looking to the best moral and political interests of the city. He is largely interested in local church work, and has for three years been President of the North Carolina State Convention of the Christian Church, of which he is a member. He is a Director and member of the Executive Committee of the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce and one of the ruling forces in that organization.

THE BANK OF ROCKY MOUNT

Rocky Mount's Oldest, Most Noted, and Premier Financial Institution



Here is presented a short sketch of the institution that has without doubt been the most powerful and useful in the building of the lusty and aggressive eastern metropolis that is the Rocky Mount of today. This is the oldest

bank in the city, having been organized Jan. 1, 1889, and has steadily grown in strength, usefulness and power each year of its history, having behind it, men who constitute a large proportion of the bone and sinew, brains, progressiveness and financial strength of the community. These men are Rocky Mount men, born and bred, they and their ancestors for generations, and their stake in the community has been and is now perhaps greater than that of any other group of men represented by any Rocky Mount organization.

This bank was first organized as above stated in 1889, Messrs. Thomas H. Battle, S. E. Westray and L. F. Tillery being the moving spirits. At the organization, Mr. Westray was elected President, Mr. Battle Vice-President, and Mr. Tillery Cashier, Mr. Battle being then as he is now, the active manager. Rocky Mount in that day was a small village of a few hundred people, and the launching of a bank was quite an event and something of a venture. But the bank prospered from the beginning. Five years after its organization, Mr. Westray, who was one of the wealthiest citizens of the community, died and Mr. Battle was elected President in his stead. Mr. Westray's stock in the bank was purchased by Mr. R. H. Ricks, (who was then elected Vice-President to fill the place made vacant by Mr. Battle's election as President) and by Mr. J. H. Ruffin, who was at that time connected with The Rocky Mount Mills. The capital of the bank in the beginning was \$25,000.00. This has been increased from time to time, as its needs and the needs of the town for financial accommodation have grown larger, until now it has a capital of \$100,000.00, and undivided profits of \$60,000.00.

The Bank of Rocky Mount ever since its organization, has led where matters that would benefit the city have been in question, and has never hesitated to back up with the necessary funds every sane movement for the upbuilding of the community. One case in point is that of the tobacco market, now grown to be one of the largest employers of labor and producers of wealth in the city, employing in one capacity or another, people who are the support of perhaps 20 to 25 per cent of the population of the city. The establishment of the Rocky Mount Tobacco Market, the first in Eastern North Carolina, was considered a good deal of a risk. But the officers of this bank after fully investigating the situation and the conditions, were persuaded that the culture and production of tobacco in this section was bound to become in time a great industry, and arriving at this conclusion, The Bank of Rocky Mount, with the decision, and the confidence in the city which it has always shown, did not hesitate to furnish the necessary financial assistance through several years of varying success in the industry, to place the market firmly on its feet. It is not overstating the proposition to say that Mr. Battle and The Bank of Rocky Mount are responsible for the success of the market, as they are responsible for a number of other things which have been strong elements in the city's development. Beginning business when the city was a country village, the growth and success of this bank and the growth and progress of the city, have been so interwoven, and their interests and movements have been so joined,

that it is difficult to think of one without thinking of the other. The people have come to feel about The Bank of Rocky Mount much as they feel about the postoffice, as a public institution in every sense of the word, the people's bank, and the Rocky Mount Bank in the broadest meaning.

THE HEAD OF THE BANK.

The commanding and powerful position attained by this bank in the financial circles of this city and section, and the magnitude of the work it has wrought could not be accounted for on any other hypothesis than that at its head, guiding its fortunes, and directing its policies, must have been a strong and resourceful industrial captain, not only a man of great business ability, but a man of broad views and sympathies who commanded the respect of the whole community, and knew how to gather about him and manage the right sort of men.

And so it has been. The president of the bank is Mr. Thomas H. Battle, who has been its active manager since its birth. This fact would alone explain the bank's success and usefulness to the thousands who know this man.

It might be said of Mr. Battle that he is a great business general, successful in everything to which he has put his hand—that would be true; it might be said that he has been the greatest individual force in the building of the city and in the giving to it of the cleanest and wisest municipal government for a quarter of a century of which any town in the state can boast—that would be true; it might be said of him that he is a public leader in whom every man, woman and child in the city has the fullest confidence and who has never led them except to their best interests—that would be true; but the rare quality which the people rightly attribute to Mr. Battle and which he has ever justified, we believe to be finer than all, and the Editors of this work find pleasure in the privilege of giving it expression here: "That Mr. Battle is a man who regards his word when given as meant to be kept, not only to the mere letter but to the fullest meaning that was in contemplation, who scorns and hates all subterfuges, who knows no way of meeting an issue save straight from the shoulder and face to face, and who, whether he holds the advantage or not, disregards it to do plain and simple justice."

Mr. Battle comes of distinguished ancestry. He was born in Raleigh in 1830, his father being Dr. Kemp P. Battle, ex-State Treasurer and ex-President of the University of North Carolina, whose name is a household word in this State and a synonym for high purpose, great ability and stainless worth. Mr. Thomas H. Battle's grandfather was the able and gifted Judge William H. Battle, for many years one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of North Carolina.

Mr. T. H. Battle was educated in the schools of Raleigh and at the State University at Chapel Hill. He studied law under Dr. John Manning, graduating in 1852 and receiving his license to practice law from the Supreme Court

the same year. He located in Tarboro at once, and within two weeks was elected Solicitor of the Inferior Court of the county. Remaining in Tarboro a year and a half, he then removed to Rocky Mount. On the retirement of Mr. J. H. Ruffin from the position of Treasurer of The Rocky Mount Mills, Mr. Battle (who was then President) was elected to succeed him, and has been since, and is now, the active manager of that noted concern. His duties at the mills, together with his duties as President of The Bank of Rocky Mount and his interests elsewhere, forced him to give up the practice of law.

Since that time, Mr. Battle's influence and business connections have grown wider and wider, his extraordinary capacity for work and management permitting him to increase his responsibilities to an extent that seems appalling, but which he has ever easily and capably carried; and there has never been a moment when all the influence and resources at his command were not at the service of Rocky Mount when occasion arose.

To give one instance of many that show the generosity and fine public spirit of this man, it might be related that at one time when the Rocky Mount Graded Schools were in urgent need of a large sum, (about \$1,600.00) to finish one of the present school buildings, Mr. Battle contributed from his own pocket half the amount necessary, giving \$800 to this purpose, the other half being contributed by Mr. R. H. Ricks, Vice-President of this Bank. As Chairman of the Graded School Board for many years it can be said without question that Mr. Battle has done more for the educational interests of the city than any other citizen. It is a work that is close to his heart, and he has retained this post because of his devotion to the public school cause, after declining continued honors in the municipal government. Full details of Mr. Battle's eminent public service can be found in the sketch of The Rocky Mount Mills elsewhere in the book (of which mills he is Treasurer and Manager) and to which reference is made.

Mr. Battle was first married to Miss Bettie Davis, of Wilson, and from this union he has one son, Mr. Kemp D. Battle, Attorney at Law, and graduate of the State University. Mr. Battle was married a second time in 1895 to Miss Sallie Hyman, and four children, three of whom are living, have blest his last marriage. Mr. Battle is not a member of any fraternal organization, and finds his greatest pleasure in his ideal home life with his gifted wife and intelligent and lovable children. He is one of the most prominent members of the Episcopal Church of Rocky Mount.

VICE-PRESIDENT R. H. RICKS.

Mr. R. H. Ricks is Vice-President of The Bank of Rocky Mount, and his name and ability make up one of the substantial elements of its success. A full story of the life of this soldier-hero, legislator and resourceful financier, can be found elsewhere in this book. We will attempt no sketch here.



THOS. H. BATTLE, President



S. L. ARRINGTON, Vice-President



J. R. BENNETT, Cashier

VICE-PRESIDENT SAMUEL L. ARRINGTON.

Mr. S. L. Arrington was born at Hilliardston, in Nash County, March 11, 1860, and is a son of the late Hon. A. H. Arrington, who, in his day and generation, was the most prominent and influential man in Nash County and indeed in this section of the State, having represented his district in the U. S. Congress and later in the Confederate Congress. His mother was before marriage Miss Kate Wimberly, daughter of the late R. D. Wimberly of Edgecombe County, whose descendants are still prominent in Edgecombe County and the State.

Mr. Arrington while a mere youth, gentle, modest and unostentatious as he was, showed marked evidences of business tact and ability, and as years passed by it was found that he had made few mistakes, that his judgment in all his business affairs was good and as a result of his cool deliberation and financial ability, he has amassed large landed estates both in North Carolina and in Alabama, beside having other large business interests which are profitable to him.

Mr. Arrington has never married. He has lived in Rocky Mount since 1882. He has never had or sought any political office, though often giving his time freely and effectively to his friends who stood for office.

Mr. Arrington and the late John H. Hunter were strong personal friends, and at his death many years ago Mr. Hunter devised his most valued possession, his bachelor home near town, to his friend, who preserves it and keeps it always ready for occupancy for himself and his friends when the city becomes oppressive to them. He is President of and owns a half interest in the Arrington-Bissette Co., a very large mercantile business in Nashville, which owns a controlling interest in the Farmers Oil Company of Nashville; is Vice-President of The Bank of Rocky Mount in which he has been a director for many years; is a director in the Rocky Mount Saving & Trust Co., and is as considerate and polite to the small boy who wants to raise ten cents to help him get a base ball bat, as he is to the prosperous man who wants to borrow a thousand or ten thousand dollars.

MR. J. R. BENNETT, CASHIER.

Mr. J. R. Bennett, the competent and courteous young Cashier of The Bank of Rocky Mount, is largely a product of the bank having been employed there since he was 17 years old, in 1903. Mr. Battle believes in the bank promoting its own employees to the responsible positions when they show the proper merit, and the case of Mr. Bennett is an instance of this policy. Mr. Bennett is now but 24 years old, having been born Oct. 9, 1886 in Warren County. His father moved to Rocky Mount in 1890 when young Bennett was four years old. Mr. Bennett received

his education in the Rocky Mount Graded Schools, and first came to the bank in 1903 as Collector. From that position, he has by ability, close application, and unremitting loyalty worked his way steadily up to the responsible and prominent position he now occupies. It is a big thing for so young a man, but Mr. Bennett performs his duties and carries his responsibilities well, possessing the full confidence of his superiors and of the public at large.

The Assistant Cashier is Mr. W. G. Robbins, who also performs with great satisfaction to the bank the duties of bookkeeper, which require much ability and great accuracy. Mr. Robbins is also a young Rocky Mount man who is deservedly winning his spurs in The Bank of Rocky Mount. Mr. Norman Bennett is Collector, and is one of the best in the city, tactfully and efficiently looking after his work but at the same time is uniformly courteous to the public. He makes a third of the trio of young men who under the guidance and advice of Mr. Battle are being qualified for the highest duties of business and citizenship. The stenographer of this bank is Miss Lena Redmond, and her work in her line measures up to the high standard which the bank maintains in each of its departments.

In closing it might be said, that The Bank of Rocky Mount numbers its friends and patrons among the wealthy and the poor, and in every walk of life. The small depositor receives the same courteous consideration, that the larger depositors receive. And the character and ability of the officers and directors are such as to make every man who puts a dollar in this bank feel absolutely assured that his money is not only perfectly safe, but is receiving the maximum of care, efficiency and ability known to the banking business.

The Board of Directors of The Bank of Rocky Mount is as follows:

Thomas H. Battle (President) R. H. Ricks (President Rocky Mount Mills) G. T. Matthews (Head of Matthews, Weeks & Co., Wholesale Grocers) J. P. Whitehead (Physician) George J. Hales (Head of Geo. J. Hales & Bro., Wholesale Grocers) L. V. Bassett (Attorney at Law) T. J. Hackney (of Hackney Bros., Buggy and Wagon Manufacturers) A. P. Thorpe (of Thorp & Ricks, Leaf Tobacco Dealers) S. L. Arrington (of The Arrington-Bissett Co., of Nashville) D. J. Rose (Contractor) E. G. Muse, Durham N. C. (Manager Sales Department for N. C. of Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co.)

ROCKY MOUNT HOSIERY COMPANY.

This is one of Rocky Mount's important manufacturing concerns. The factory, a cut of which is shown here, is in the western portion of the city, on the Nashville branch of the A. C. L. R. R. The Rocky Mount Hosiery Company was organized in 1904, and has been uniformly and largely successful.

They have now in operation 214 machines, employing 200 hands, with a capacity of 800 dozen pair per day, the capacity of the plant having been increased fifty per cent. last year. The pay roll amounts to \$3,000.00 per month. A good class of labor is employed, and few industries in the town are of more actual benefit to the business life of the city. This



mill, together with the Enfield Hosiery Mills, also owns the controlling interest in the Littleton, (N. C.) Hosiery Mill, and the manager of this mill, Mr. Geo. T. Andrews, operates in addition, the Enfield, (N. C.) Hosiery Mill. The Rocky Mount factory has a complete dyeing and finishing plant. The combined capacity of the three mills is 2,000 dozen pair per day. The manufactured product has always found a ready market because of the high merit of the goods. The President and Treasurer of the company is Mr. J. C. Braswell (President of The Planters Bank), the Vice-President is Mr. Geo. S. Edwards (of Geo. S. Edwards & Co., Wholesale Grocers), and Mr. Geo. T. Andrews is Secretary and Manager. Mr. Andrews is a man of long experience in the business, and the successful record he has made in the management of this mill is ample proof that he is the right man in the right place.

W. D. & C. A. COCHRAN.

Largest Clothing, Gents' Furnishings and Shoe Store on the Atlantic Coast Line Between Richmond and Charleston.

The large clothing store of Messrs. W. D. & C. A. Cochran, on Main Street, is one of the show places in Rocky Mount. As indicated in the headlines, these gentlemen carry the largest stock of clothing, gents' furnishings and shoes to be found anywhere on the Coast Line between Richmond, Va., and Charleston, S. C., the value of the stock carried being approximately \$50,000.00. Their store is artistically arranged—double-decked, airy and well lighted—and they occupy something like 9,000 square feet of floor space in their sales rooms. While trying to have goods for every class of trade, their specialty is the better and higher class of goods, and so well known has this fact become over Rocky Mount and a wide surrounding territory, that the very fact of goods having been purchased at Cochran's has come to mean that they are of the best grade. It has been the policy of this store to sell on small profits, backing this up with economy and the highest class of system and business management, so that the benefit of the saving could go to the store's customers, and yet an average profit accrue to the business. This is one of the facts that account for the wide popularity and enviable reputation of this business.

The senior member of the firm, Mr. W. D. Cochran, is known as one of the city's very ablest business men, a man whose integrity has always been above question, and who has won the respect of this whole section by his eminently good business judgment, square dealings and his clean character. Mr. Cochran is a native of Halifax County, N. C., was born January 13, 1856, and lived on the farm until after his majority. He spent some time in the mercantile business as salesman in Weldon, Oxford, and in the Mississippi Valley. Traveling over most of the great West in search of a business location, he finally returned to North Carolina and came to Rocky Mount, foreseeing well the great future of this city. He established his business here in 1894, and his record in Rocky Mount has been a continued growth in success, influence and in the respect of the community for him as a wise and sane business man and a very useful citizen. The large business he has built here is alone a sufficient testimonial to the fact that he possesses extraordinary business generalship and fine judgment. Mr. Cochran was married April 30, 1896, to Miss Virginia Merecock, charming daughter of Capt. and Mrs. J. E. Merecock, of Halifax county. Mr. and Mrs. Cochran have two children.



Interior View of W. D. & C. A. Cochran's Store.

The junior member of this firm is Mr. Charles A Cochran, one of the most prominent and popular of the city's younger business element, and a nephew of Mr. W. D. Cochran. Mr. Charles A. Cochran was born in Weldon, N. C., December 20, 1875. He spent his youth in Virginia, to which State his father moved about 1884. He was connected for about seven years with a mercantile business in Emporia, Va., coming to Rocky Mount as salesman for his uncle in the spring of 1900.

Mr. Cochran impressed the people of the city with his capacity for business and with the further fact that he is a man in whom trust and confidence may be reposed with full safety. By his uniform courtesy, good fellowship, honorable life and conduct, he has become very popular, not only in business and social circles of the city, but among people in every walk of life. He became a partner in the business in the Spring of 1910, earning his success by force of his own ability, honesty and industry. Mr. Cochran was married June 30th, 1910, to Miss Mary Scott Bulluck, of Enfield, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Bulluck of that town. Mrs. Cochran is a lady of many graces and accomplishments, and makes a valuable addition to the social life of the city.

The large brick building now occupied and owned by this firm was built in 1896, made necessary by the rapid and substantial growth of the business, and no concern in the city has better quarters.

In closing it should be noted that one of the potent elements in the success of this business has been that every customer of theirs has come to feel that he can, with entire safety, trust implicitly in whatever representations are made to him by either of the proprietors or their salesmen. It has always been a cardinal principle of this house that every customer must know exactly what he is buying, and even the slightest misrepresentation would not be tolerated for a moment.

As a consequence of this principle, uniformly practiced, this firm sell clothing to customers living all the way from Richmond to Augusta.

WILKINSON, BULLUCK & CO.

One of the City's Largest and Most Important Organizations.
Conduct Insurance, Real Estate and Rental Business.
Have General Agency for Three Fire Insurance
Companies.

In writing of Wilkinson, Bulluck & Co., there is nothing stronger than a bare statement of facts to prove what this business has accomplished in the upbuilding of the community in which they are located. Truly, it can be said of the above firm that the bare relation of what it has done to assist in the upbuilding of Rocky Mount needs no embellishment. The last census published by the United States Government proved by the actual figures that Rocky Mount grew more in proportion than any other city in the State, a full relation of which is given elsewhere in this book. The connection it has with Wilkinson, Bulluck & Company is that the industrial progress of Rocky Mount in the last ten years has been thoroughly interwoven with the accomplishments of the above named firm. Hardly any movement of a public or industrial nature has been started in Rocky Mount during the time named but that it has received at least a strong support from this firm.

At the head of any successful business can always be found the brain of one individual; of course he must be assisted by able lieutenants. The guiding hand of the firm of Wilkinson, Bulluck & Company has been, and is still centered in the person of Mr. W. S. Wilkinson. No one individual has been more concerned in the advancement of the city's remarkable industrial progress than the individual named. The amount of work that this man accomplishes is not generally known; those who have opportunity of realizing it wonder how he really does it. The solution lies in the fact of his remarkable executive ability, and he enjoys at the present time not only the unbounded

confidence of this entire community, but his work has been of sufficient scope to make him recognized as second to no man in the insurance business in North Carolina. His business ability and absolute integrity, not only in fulfilling the letter of his obligations, but in the spirit of fair dealings between man and man, has gained for him the confidence of a large circle of strong business men over the entire State. In the course of his work in Rocky Mount he has come in contact with not only business men in the insurance line, but in nearly all lines of business and the directory of the Underwriters Fire Insurance Company bears strong testimony of the confidence and esteem in which he is held by business men, not only in his home community, but in other cities, for really it was an attestation of their confidence in his ability as an insurance man and his integrity as a business man, that these directors and other stock-holders in the Underwriters Fire Insurance Company gave in putting their money in this enterprise.

Mr. Wilkinson was born in Tarboro, Sept. 4th, 1866, being the son of Mr. F. S. Wilkinson, one of the State's most noted educators. (Mr. F. S. Wilkinson has always enjoyed the reputation of being thorough in his work and he inculcated this spirit in the training of his son.) After preparation for a higher course under his father, Mr. Wilkinson attended the State University and graduated at that institution in 1887. Recognizing the possibilities of this city, he moved here in 1894 and became a local agent in the fire insurance and real estate business. Although at that time the field was small and the contest for business sharp, by sheer ability and work Mr. Wilkinson gained a strong nucleus for a prosperous business, and in 1901 the firm of Wilkinson, Bulluck & Company was formed, consisting of Mr. J. D. Bulluck and Mr. W. S. Wilkinson, as managers with Mr. J. C. Braswell as a third partner. This firm was incorporated in 1902. After several years successful business the interest of Mr. Bulluck was purchased by Mrs. Wilkinson, as Mr. Bulluck desired to engage in other lines of business. As a strong business had been established, it was decided to retain the firm name, but for the past seven years Mr. Wilkinson has been the active manager of the business, and Mr. J. C. Braswell, one of the city's strongest financiers, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this book, his strong business partner and associate.

Mr. Wilkinson was married in 1891 to Miss Lula Wimberley, daughter of Mr. G. L. Wimberley, which name stands among the very most prominent in this part of the State. They have six children and live in one of the handsomest residences in the city on the Falls Road (which is one of the most desirable residential sections of the city). A picture of Mr. Wilkinson's home appears elsewhere in this book.

The firm of Wilkinson, Bulluck & Company has shown a remarkable increase every year since its formation until today it does one of the largest insurance, real estate and rental agency businesses of any firm in this State.

Ever since the formation of the Underwriters Fire Insurance Company Mr. Wilkinson has been general agent. In 1908 the Seaboard Fire Insurance Company, of Norfolk, Va., entering North Carolina, placed their general agency

with him. In April, 1910, the Atlantic National Fire Insurance Company, of Macon, Ga., entering the State, made the third company for which Mr. Wilkinson is general agent.

On account of growth of business, in 1909, Mr. Geo. A. Wilkinson, a brother of the person of this sketch, who was engaged in the insurance business in Tarboro, was secured as special agent for the three companies named, and has been extremely successful in getting a desirable line of business for these companies. He is a young man of charming personality, knows the business thoroughly, and thereby secures favorable consideration from local agents all over the State.

Mr. W. S. Wilkinson is one of the most versatile men with whom the editors of this book ever came in contact. Not only is he versatile, but he is efficient and thorough in all that he undertakes. As an evidence of appreciation of his ability, we will cite the fact that he was elected County Superintendent of Education of Nash County after he had been a native of the County for only a few months. This position Mr. Wilkinson held continuously for 10 years until he was forced to resign on account of it being necessary for him to give his attention to details of other interests. However, he is today Chairman of the County Board of Education, and is still actively interested in the progress of education in Nash County. A sketch of Nash County's public schools is given elsewhere in this book, which shows that Nash County has not been backward in educational progress, and this has been due largely to the active and untiring work of Mr. Wilkinson. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Rocky Mount Graded Schools. He is an expert mathematician, and when county conventions are held where rapid clerical count is needed, it has been almost invariably the rule for Mr. Wilkinson to be selected as secretary. Mr. Wilkinson is Secretary of the Rocky Mount Road Commission, and one of the five members of the Board of Directors. He was largely instrumental in having a special bill passed which gave the country within a radius of ten miles of Rocky Mount an opportunity to improve her roads, and he has been an active factor ever since in the work of road improvement. It has often been said that education and good roads go hand in hand, and Mr. Wilkinson recognizing this, has taken an active interest in both. He is also Treasurer of the Y. M. C. A. funds, and actively assisted in the raising of the \$5,000.00 which the citizens of Rocky Mount contributed to equip the \$50,000.00 Y. M. C. A. building, which is now in the course of erection in our city. Mr. Wilkinson is a Director of the Planters Bank, and Rocky Mount Hosiery Company, and a member of the Finance Committee of both institutions. In starting this article it was stated that the industrial progress of Rocky Mount was interwoven with the history of the persons of this sketch and as the facts are related the statement is absolutely borne out. It seems remarkable that one man can be concerned in so many enterprises and successful in all; but this is due largely in the present instance to the truly remarkable ability that he possesses to choose and to train able and capable assistants.

It would be impossible to carry on the immense business transacted by this firm unless they had an able and thoroughly trained corps of assistants. Every one of their employees are highly efficient and capable.

Miss Lucy C. Thorpe, one of the city's most charming and popular young ladies, accepted a position with this firm nine years ago, and has been with them without a break continuously since that time. Through long experience she has become rapid and expert in the details of the insurance business, and the number of policies that she has written would run up into the tens of thousands. Unquestionably Miss Thorpe is one of the most competent assistants in the insurance business in the State. She was stenographer for the firm until the business grew to such an extent that it now takes practically her entire time writing policies.

Mr. Paul Gorham is in charge of the rental department, and he also has been with the business nine years. He has under his management one of the largest, if not the largest, rental business in the State. He is a young man of energy and strong character, and is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

Mr. C. W. Coghill has been with the firm four years. His preliminary training admirably equipped him for the responsible duties that he now discharges. He started his business career as an office boy in the Bank of Rocky Mount. He remained with this institution eight years, enjoying their implicit trust. He resigned the position as assistant cashier in this bank in order to establish for himself an insurance business, but very soon after entering this line of work he received an attractive offer from his present firm, as their bookkeeper. He is not only considered one of the most expert accountants in the State, but he also possesses a thorough knowledge of the principles of the insurance business. He possesses the confidence of his firm to such an extent that he is entrusted with large responsibilities. He is conscientious in his work, and is always on the lookout for the mutual protection of all parties concerned in the transaction of business with his firm.

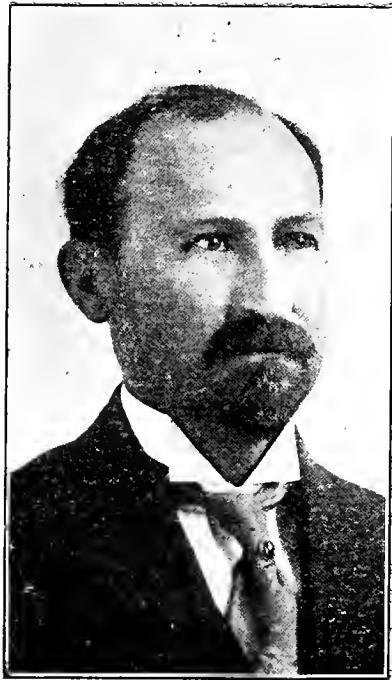
Owing to the growth of this firm's business, about a year ago Miss Etta Lancaster was employed as private stenographer for Mr. W. S. Wilkinson, and to assist in the other work of the office. In keeping with the rest of the assistants in this office, she is rapid and efficient.

UNDERWRITERS FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF ROCKY MOUNT

Organized, Owned and Operated by Home People, and Eminently Successful. Every Year Shows Gratifying Gains

The organization of the Underwriters Fire Insurance Company of Rocky Mount is a strong testimonial of the capability and spirit of progress possessed by the business men of this city, and especially so by those responsible for the organization of this Company, which has been of such an immense advantage to the city's industrial life.

During the year 1905, Mr. W. S. Wilkinson, and his business associates recognizing that the time was propitious for the organizing of a company that would bring home some of the revenue paid for insurance, undertook this enterprise. These men guaranteed the stock, and the work of interesting a large number of the business men of the city and adjacent territory was undertaken. In a remarkably short time the amount of \$51,500.00 capital, and \$12,-875.00 surplus was subscribed and the Company organized. Dr. M. R. Braswell was elected president, Mr. T. J. Hackney, vice president; Mr. J. C. Braswell, treasurer, and Mr. W. S. Wilkinson, secretary. A strong board of directors was selected from the stockholders. Since that time the Company has been eminently successful, so much so, that at each time for the selection of officers there has been no change from those originally selected. Also the Board of Directors, with a few exceptions, has remained the same. At the present time the following compose the Board of Directors, all known as successful business men: Messrs. W. L. Sherrod, Geo. B. Curtis, and S. G. Bellamy, of Enfield, N. C., Dr. J. C. Braswell, Mr. J. M. Sherrod, Mr. W. T. Braswell, and Dr. R. H. Speight, of Whitakers, N. C.; Messrs. J. B. Philips, H. B. Bryant, M. C. Braswell, and Dr. H. B. Marriott, of Battleboro, N. C., Dr. J. P. Wimberley and Mr. Frank Shields of Scotland Neck, N. C., Mr. S. F. Austin of Nashville, N.C., Messrs. W. D. Hackney and W. L. Banks of Wilson, N. C., Dr. W. P. Mercer and Mr. R. S. Wells of Elm City, N.C., Mr. J. D. Bulluck, of Leachville, N. C., and Messrs. F. C. Ferguson, T. J. Hackney, J. C. Braswell, G. S. Edwards, D. J. Rose and Drs. M. R. Braswell and G. L. Wimberley, of Rocky Mount, N. C.



DR. M. R. BRASWELL, President



T. J. HACKNEY, Vice-President



W. S. WILKINSON, Secretary

The company was organized as stated with the purpose in view of trying to keep at home some of the tremendous volume of money that has always been sent away for insurance purposes, and it was decided to do business only in North Carolina. Besides the business men interested in the Company from Rocky Mount, there have been a large number interested in other cities and towns in the State. The result has shown that our people are patriotic, have faith in home brains and ability, and recognize the good business policy of keeping money at home so that they may reap some of the benefits thereby. The plan of operation of the Company is ideal, it being so constituted as to show, it would seem absolute and perfect safety in the handling of its business. The Executive Committee consists of Messrs. T. J. Hackney, Geo. S. Edwards, J. C. Braswell, Dr. Geo. L. Wimberley and Dr. M. R. Braswell, and meets every month for the purpose of investing the funds and examining the affairs of the Company. The Directors meet every six months and a thorough examination of the condition of the Company is made. By this method all the transactions of the Company are quickly brought under the observation of a large number of fine business men. One reason for the gratifying success of this Company is the great care that is taken in the selection of risks. A great deal of consideration was given the matter before the selection of the officers of the Company, and as a consequence, no Company could be more fortunate in that respect, for all four of the officers are men who have achieved success by their own efforts and ability. The officers and Directors are not mere figureheads, as is the case in instances of some organizations that make a bid for public faith, but are men who realize their responsibilities, and strive at all times to properly discharge them.

The president Dr. M. R. Braswell, is a man recognized as one of our foremost business men, a man well qualified for the position that he holds. He is one of three sons of the late loved and lamented T. P. Braswell. His father was an eminently successful and beloved man, and the three children that he left received an early training under his guidance that well qualified them for business careers. It is not amiss to here state that all have made well use of their talents, and opportunities, and have given at all times their time and money on a broad plane for the advancement of the community in which they have lived. Dr. Braswell was educated and trained for a physician, in which profession he was absolutely successful; but his business affairs grew to such a large extent that he felt that he did not want to continue the practice of his profession unless he could give it his undivided time and attention, and recognizing his responsibilities as a large planter and property owner, and director of numerous enterprises, he recently retired from the practice of his profession. He received his education at Bingham, Wake Forest, the University of N. C., and the University of Maryland. He was married in 1894 to Miss Mamie Hackney, the beautiful and cultured daughter of Mr. T. J. Hackney. They have two bright and intelligent children, Mamie and Emily. His wife being the only child of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Hackney, Dr. Braswell and his family have their home with her

parents, which is the most handsome and expensive residence in Rocky Mount, and which would be a credit to any city in the State. Dr. Braswell is interested in a large number of the city's industries, and is a stockholder in practically every industry that has been gotten up for the furtherance of the city's progress. He is vice president of the Rocky Mount Sash & Blind Co., and to his efforts is due the fact in a large measure, that the Rocky Mount Hosiery Co. was organized, an institution that has been successful from a financial point of view in itself, and of great value to the city in the way of paying wages to go towards making the city larger.

The Underwriters Fire Insurance Company was fortunate in their selection of him as its president. Of Mr. J. C. Braswell, treasurer, and Mr. W. S. Wilkinson, Secretary, mention is made elsewhere in this book.

From the first year of the organization of the Underwriters Fire Insurance Company of Rocky Mount, the business has been successful and gratifying from every point of view. The Company has paid since its formation, losses of \$16,560.00, and dividends to its stockholders of \$12,360.00, and in addition to this a handsome surplus has been laid aside each year. The growth of the Company can best be determined by a comparison of its first annual statement, December 31st, 1906, and its last annual statement, December 31st., 1910, as follows:

| | Reserve. | Surplus. | Assets. |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| December 31st., 1906 | \$4,898.62 | \$13,743.49 | \$70,142.11 |
| December 31st., 1910 | \$15,996.79 | \$22,253.60 | \$91,837.83 |

The insurance in force at the end of the first year was \$436,046.00 Insurance now in force is \$1,593,066.00.

Mr. W. S. Wilkinson is the General Agent of the Company, and has been since its formation. The business of the Company is now in the offices of Messrs. Wilkinson, Bulluck & Co., who have large and commodious quarters in the Planters Bank Building.

It is the natural law for any business enterprise to select from the men available those best qualified for the positions to be filled. In the selection of the Vice President of the Underwriters Fire Insurance Company, they were indeed fortunate in being able to secure such a well trained business man as Mr. T. J. Hackney. Like father, like son, is an oft repeated assertion, and in this instance the truth of the assertion is fully borne out. In writing of Rocky Mount, mention should be made of Mr. W. N. Hackney, the father of Mr. T. J. Hackney, for the former left an impress upon this part of the State that will be handed down for generations. Mr. W. N. Hackney, now deceased, was born in Nash County in January, 1823. He learned the trade of a wheelwright, and located in Wilson, N. C., in the year 1853. He engaged in the manufacture of wagons and carts, and from this enterprise sprang the immense business now well and most favorably known over many States, under the firm name of Hackney Bros. Mr. T. J. Hackney, the eldest son, moved to Rocky Mount in 1874, and opened a branch business under the firm name of T.

J. Hackney & Co., his father being the Company. When Mr. T. J. Hackney's brother, Mr. George Hackney, became of age, the father's interest in the Rocky Mount branch was bought by the youngest son, and in 1878, the business in this city was changed to the firm name of Hackney Bros. In 1884, the health of the father became in such a condition that he was forced to retire from business, and Mr. George Hackney left Rocky Mount for Wilson to take active charge of the business there. The three sons of Mr. W. N. Hackney, consisting of the two named, and Mr. W. D. Hackney, bought the business at Wilson from their father, and an equal copartnership was formed among the three able and energetic business men for the operation of the businesses at Rocky Mount and Wilson. Their training and ability was such as to advance the scope and size of the business until today a Hackney vehicle is synonymous with excellency, enjoying an enviable reputation over many states. The plant at Rocky Mount was burned in 1890 and it was decided not to rebuild at this point, but to enlarge their facilities at Wilson. As the firm had secured large property interests in this city, and as a matter of fact are at the present time largely interested in property, and industries here, it was decided that though they would not rebuild their vehicle factory here, they would go into the hardware business, and Mr. T. J. Hackney took the active management of this business, which, as has every business in which the Hackney Bros. have been concerned, was successful from the beginning. On account of his health, Mr. T. J. Hackney decided a few years ago to give up the exacting duties connected with the conducting of the hardware business here, and the business was sold to Mr. R. R. Gay and Mr. R. W. Arrington, and is now known under the firm name of Gay & Arrington. Mr. Hackney not only has been known as a successful business man, but has always given of his time and money to assist worthy causes and enterprises, and is a man that has always been recognized as of the strictest integrity.

Mr. Hackney was married November 1877 to Miss Josephine Hammond. From this union there was one child, Mamie, who is the wife of Dr. M. R. Braswell. As previously stated in this book, Mr. and Mrs. Hackney and their daughter and her husband, and two bright and interesting grand daughters, have their home together in the handsomest residence of which the city can boast.

It will be observed from the description of the Directors and Officers of the Underwriters Fire Insurance Company, that they have men, not only of wealth and sterling character, but that are of tried and proven business ability, which makes the assurance of the continued success of this Company.

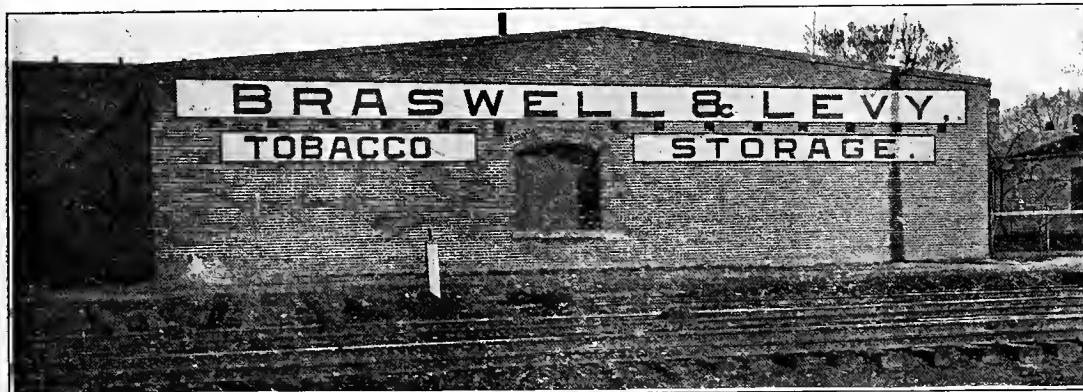


RESIDENCE OF MR. W. S. WILKINSON

704 Falls - Pres
PM - Coi
JULY 1900

BRASWELL & LEVY—Leaf Tobacco Dealers.

This firm is one of the best and most favorably known in North Carolina. They handled during the season of 1910-11, approximately 4,000,000 lbs. of tobacco. They have factories in Rocky Mount, and in Frankfort, Ky., maintaining buyers also on both markets. The combined capacity of their two factories is 80,000 lbs. per day. They have installed in both their factories, the latest improved steam drying machines with both apron and stick attachments.



The business was founded in 1892 by Mr. J. C. Braswell, so prominent now in banking and financial circles, who conducted it until 1899, when he took in as a partner the lamented Lewis C. Levy, (who died Feb. 25, 1911), and Mr. Levy became active manager, Mr. Braswell exercising a general supervision. The business was uniform-

ly successful, Mr. Levy being one of the very ablest tobacco men who have ever operated in North Carolina, in whom every man who ever came in touch with him had implicit faith. He gave his life to this business, and was one of the greatest forces in making the Rocky Mount Tobacco Market what it is today. His associates wish to testify here that it was largely his unremitting energy, loyalty and ability that have given this firm its high stand in the tobacco world. Mr. Levy and this firm numbered and do number now, among their customers, valued connections in England, Holland, Germany, Japan and other countries, together with a large domestic trade. They now have a very large stock of tobacco on hand, of the various grades, both burley and bright. Mr. Braswell will continue to look after the business this season, and will probably take into the firm a new partner next season.

BATTLE & LANCASTER

The Largest and Most Complete Furniture Store in Eastern North Carolina

The rapid and substantial growth of Rocky Mount's mammoth house furnishing concern, the firm of Battle & Lancaster, has been one of the most marked incidents in the history of the city during the past two years.

This firm, as it is now constituted, was formed in July 1909, not quite two years ago. The present magnitude and great extent of their business, together with their high financial standing, tells an eloquent story, both of the advantages of the city of Rocky Mount as a business center and of the splendid ability and energy of the two men who compose this firm.

Battle & Lancaster are located on Washington street and now occupy six floors with 20,000 square feet of floor space. They buy their goods in solid car loads, and besides their local trade, they cover with their salesman practically all the small towns from Weldon to Spring Hope. They are now prepared to take care of all out of town business in a satisfactory manner and are rapidly extending and widening their field.

It has been the policy of this concern to endeavor to carry in stock every article that would be needed in equipping the most modern home. In this connection it might be stated here that so far as we know, Battle & Lancaster are the only furniture house in eastern North Carolina who can furnish an up-to-



INTERIOR VIEW OF BATTLE & LANCASTER'S STORE

date home complete, all the way from a magnificent kitchen range to an artistic high grade piano. Their leading piano is the famous Lester which, as everybody knows, is the last word in art, durability and tone quality in the piano world. They also handle the Cote which is a really high grade instrument, but a less costly make, and are also the local agents for the Farrand Cecilian Player. To give some idea of the great proportions which their piano business has assumed, we will state that in their piano display room they rarely have less than a car load of pianos.

They unquestionably do the piano business of the city.

This firm has just accepted the agency for the well known Buck stoves and ranges, the leading cooking stoves of the country, which are now recommended by all the labor organizations.

In the furniture line, this house carries only the best quality, and yet their business is so large and their system and management so efficient and economical, that they are enabled to give their customers the advantage of the minimum price and still have a reasonable profit accrue to the business.

During the past year the capacity and the sales of this concern have actually doubled, notwithstanding the fact that the utmost care and conservatism is always the rule where business extension is in question. They employ at present eight capable and hustling salesmen, who are every day rendering the firm of Battle & Lancaster more popular and better known to the public.

One of the strongest elements perhaps in the large success of this firm is the fact that they have been liberal users of newspaper advertising space, believing in the policy of letting the public know it when they have a good thing. And the results have abundantly justified this course.

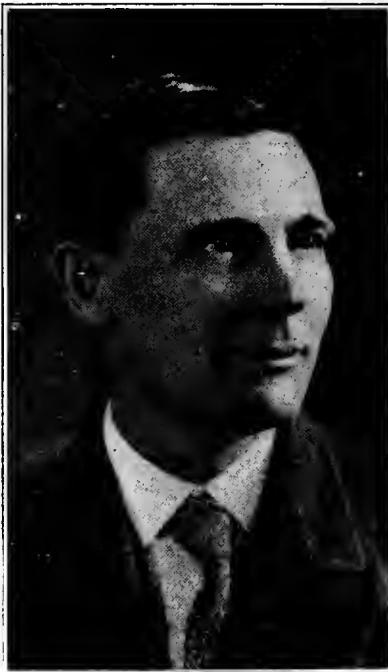


INTERIOR VIEW OF BATTLE & LANCASTER'S STORE



GASTON BATTLE

The members of this firm are Mr. Gaston Battle and Captain W. R. Lancaster, both of whom are Rock Mount men, born and bred, and are members of two of the oldest and most prominent Edgecombe county families. Mr. Battle is a lineal descendent of Elisha Battle, who came to Edgecombe in 1742, and was President of the North Carolina Constitutional Convention, which ratified the Constitution of the United States. Captain Lancaster is at present a member of the Board of Aldermen of the city of Rocky Mount and one of the most prominent members of the First Baptist Church. Both Mr. Battle and Captain Lancaster are men who have made their mark in the business world and who have the full confidence of the city, both in their business capacity and their personal integrity. They are both yet comparatively young men, Mr. Battle having been born in 1871 and Captain Lancaster in 1874; and having already a record of such worthful achievement, the future must hold splendid possibilities for them, and for Rocky Mount in their contribution to the progress of the city.



W. R. LANCASTER



MORITZ VON MILGROM

A Leading Jeweler and Optometrist

This jewelry store is scarcely yet one year old, but so efficient has been its management, coupled with such square dealings, and fair and courteous treatment of the public, that it has already won an enviable patronage among the highest class of the trade, and is regarded as one of the leading jewelry stores in this section of the state. The stock of solid gold and silverware, cut glass and everything in the jewelry line carried by this store is one of the most complete and up-to-date to be found anywhere in a city the size of Rocky Mount. Mr. von Milgrom also does a considerable jewelry manufacturing business, making a specialty of remodeling old jewelry—something that is not done elsewhere, this side of Baltimore.

The proprietor of the store, Mr. von Milgrom, is one of the most expert and reliable jewelers in the city, thoroughly conversant with every detail of the business, and possessing splendid business qualities. He is a native of Dresden, the Capital city of Saxony, Germany, having been born there September 22, 1884. Mr. von Milgrom is a descendant of an old and noble German house, his father, D. L. von Milgrom, having been a Major in the Prussian Army with a brilliant record in the Austrian-Prussian War of 1866.

Mr. von Milgrom was educated at the University of Dresden and at the Imperial Military School at Vienna. He came to America, landing in New York September 2, 1901. From New York, he went to Washington, N. C., embarking there in the jewelry business, being a partner in the Washington Jewelry Company. He moved to Windsor, N. C., in 1904, conducting a jewelry business also in that town. He came to Rocky Mount in 1906, accepting a position with the Woodruff Jewelry Store in this city as optometrist and manager. He went into business for himself, opening his

MORITZ VON MILGROM

Woodruff Jewelry Store in this city as optometrist and manager. He went into business for himself, opening his



INTERIOR VIEW VON MILGROM'S STORE

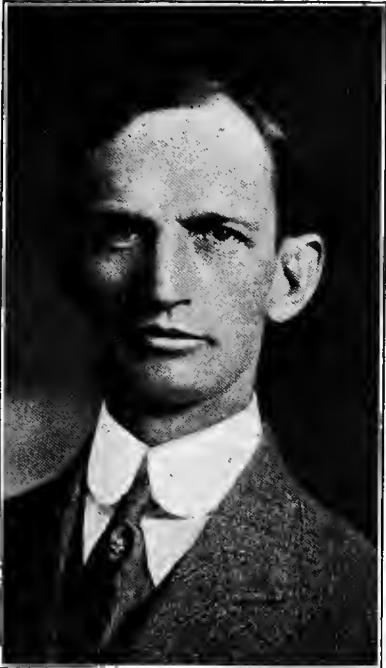
present store April 1, 1910, and as stated before, has built up a large and desirable patronage in the short space of one year.

For general beauty, neatness and artistic arrangement of stock and sales room, his store is not surpassed in the state.

Mr. Milgrom is, in addition, a graduate optometrist, licensed by the State of North Carolina, and conducts a general optical business, keeping a full supply of the highest class goods in that line. He is regarded as a thoroughly competent and reliable eye specialist, and is widely consulted and patronized.

Mr. von Milgrom was married June 15, 1909, to Miss Mary Hester Marriott, beautiful and accomplished daughter of Dr. H. B. Marriott, of Battleboro, one of the most prominent and influential citizens of this section of the state.

Mr. von Milgrom is not only popular in business circles, but he and Mrs. von Milgrom have made quite a valuable and welcome addition to the social life of the city.



MR. EDGAR W. SMITH

Secretary and Treasurer of the Tobacco Board of Trade
of Rocky Mount, and Local Manager for the
Imperial Tobacco Company, Ltd., of Great
Britain and Ireland

There are a few more useful citizens in Rocky Mount than Mr. Edgar W. Smith, and none who are more public-spirited and who are held in higher esteem by their acquaintances. Mr. Smith was born in Danville, Va. in 1865, and was educated in the schools of that city. He was Deputy Clerk of Hustings Court for several years after which he engaged in the tobacco business there, being connected with one of the largest concerns in the South. On the opening of the tobacco market in Eastern Carolina he came to Rocky Mount in 1891 and established the business of leaf tobacco buying under the firm name of E. W. Smith & Co. He built up the business to such an extent that in 1900 it was necessary to build a new factory. This was equipped with steam and the latest improved methods of drying and handling the leaf for domestic and export trade. Mr. Smith then formed a co-partnership with Pemberton & Penn and J. P. Taylor & Co., under the firm name of E. W. Smith & Co., and bought largely for prominent manufacturers of America and England, as well as for the Japanese Government. Upon the formation of the Imperial Tobacco Company he sold his plant to them and accepted a position as Buyer and Manager of their Rocky Mount branch, a position he has retained ever since and has filled with signal ability, and satisfaction both to the company and to the tobacco industry of this section.

EDGAR W. SMITH

retained ever since and has filled
of this section.



RESIDENCE OF MR. E. W. SMITH

works and Sewerage Committees and as a member of other prominent Committees. He was among the first to advocate an issue of bonds for public improvements and has recently started a movement to issue \$50,000 in bonds for street improvement purposes.

Besides his tobacco interests, Mr. Smith is a Director of the Rocky Mount Homestead & Loan Association and is interested in several other enterprises of the city.

Mr. Smith was President of the Rocky Mount Board of Trade for several terms, and is now Secretary and Treasurer of the Board, which position he has held for the past ten years. Mr. Smith is recognized all over the tobacco section as one of the very ablest tobacco men who ever operated on this market, and also as a man with a high sense of honor, whose integrity has always been above question. He is deeply alive to the interests and welfare of Rocky Mount and is ever active in the promotion of anything for its good. He has served with conspicuous ability as a member of the Board of Aldermen, Chairman of the Water-



RESIDENCE OF MR. W. D. CCCHRAN



RESIDENCE OF MR. T. J. HACKNEY



ROBERT E. RANSON

ROBERT E. RANSON

Superintendent of Schools for Nash County

Robert E. Ranson was born in 1879 at Huntersville, Mecklenburg Co., N. C. He is a son of R. M. and Agnes A. (Sample) Ranson. He was prepared for college in Huntersville High School, and after four years at Erskine College, Due West, S. C., was graduated in 1901, with the degree of A. B. After leaving college he was a teacher until elected County Superintendent of Schools of Nash County July, 1909. He taught in S. C., Ark., Fla. and N. C., and during the vacation months did newspaper work. While Principal of the Spring Hope Graded School in 1908, he started the Spring Hope Leader, and was its editor for 18 months. Since coming to Nash County, Mr. Ranson has been correspondent for a number of daily papers and has kept Nash County well advertised to the outside public. He is a Mason, a member of Jr. O. U. A. M. and a Presbyterian. He married Miss Bryte Baker, a charming lady of Kings Mountain, N. C., in June, 1910. Mrs. Ranson is a graduate of Elizabeth College, Charlotte, N. C., and during the year 1909-10 was principal of the Kings Mountain Graded School. She also taught music and expression for two years, and has given a number of readings in different places in the county during the present year.

Mr. Ranson's school work in Nash County has been efficient and forceful. He is especially interested in the increase of Special School Tax Districts in Nash, and has been largely instrumental in the fine showing the county has made the past two years, not alone in this respect, but in others. He resides at Nashville, the county seat.



HON. LUCIUS V. BASSETT

HONORABLE L. V. BASSETT

Lawyer, Senator, Now and for the Past Twenty Years A Leader of the Invincible and Triumphant Democracy of Old Edgecombe

For more than a score of years past the fighting qualities and the unconquerable strength of the Edgecombe county Democracy have been a chief reliance in every political battle that has been fought in North Carolina. The fine personnel of the organization in this county has during this period developed a small coterie of leaders of unusual ability and sterling qualities of manhood and leadership, whose voices have carried great weight in the councils of the party in North Carolina. One of the most conspicuous of these leaders was the late loved and lamented Don Gilliam, whose name was a household word in every white home in Edgecombe county and indeed, in all this section of the state and whose untimely death was a matter of deep state-wide regret.

Another of these leaders, and a close friend and associate of Mr. Gilliam's, is Hon. L. V. Bassett, the subject of this sketch. In every political battle that has been waged in Edgecombe for the past two decades, L. V. Bassett has been where the fight was thickest and hottest, a leader whom the people trusted and under whose generalship they fought with pride and confidence. The Tarboro Southerner just after the adjournment of the 1911 legislature, in which Mr. Bassett was Edgecombe's Senator, accurately voiced the sentiment of the people of the county when it printed editorially the following: "This writer has

known Lucius Bassett for more than a quarter of a century. In our early acquaintance we were impressed with his sincerity of purpose and loyalty to his friends, a loyalty that counted not the cost. The years have only intensified

that impression, and these qualities are the ones that have brought him the confidence of his fellow Senators. He, like the rest of us, makes mistakes, but they are always of the head, not of the heart."

Lucius Virginius Bassett was born in Tarboro, N. C., March 2nd 1861, and is a son of the late W. A. and Chloe (Miller) Bassett. He read law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and located in Rocky Mount for the practice of his profession. While having been actively engaged in politics all the time, in his business and professional affairs, he has regarded the Law as a very jealous mistress and has freely given to her his full allegiance and service at all times.

Possessing in all respects the ideal legal mind, and re-inforcing this with tireless energy and his natural high sense of honor, and pride in the profound principles and great traditions of his profession, he has won a commanding position among the most eminent members of the Bar of Eastern North Carolina. He is at present Attorney for the Bank of Rocky Mount and also a prominent director of that institution, which is the oldest and most noted financial institution in the city; he is Attorney for the Rocky Mount Mills, the largest manufacturing institution in the city; Attorney for the Rocky Mount Homestead and Loan Association, the oldest concern of its class in the city; and enjoys a large and lucrative practice among people in every walk of life. He was Attorney for the Board of County Commissioners of Edgecombe for six years and surrendered this position when elected to the Senate of 1903. He was also a member of the Board of Elections for Edgecombe from its creation in 1899 until his first election to the Senate, and was Chairman of this Board during eight of the ten years he was a member.

To find the beginning of Senator Bassett's splendid party service, one must needs go back to the year 1892, twenty years ago, when he was elected a member of the Democratic Central Executive Committee, which had in charge the campaign of that year in Edgecombe, this being the year of a magnificent Democratic victory, not only in Edgecombe, but in North Carolina and the nation, Grover Cleveland being elected President for the second time, and Elias Carr Governor of North Carolina. Ever since that time Senator Bassett has been growing in ability, usefulness and in the respect and admiration felt for him by all the people of the county and this section. During recent years, his reputation has become State-wide, as a safe and useful legislator and a sane and effective leader in the Senate of North Carolina. Elected to the Senate the first time in 1903, Mr. Bassett at once took rank as one of the really big men in that body, a man whose views were always profoundly considered, and whose opinions when expressed were always potent in the deliberations of the Chamber. Re-elected in 1910, Senator Bassett's influence in the Senate of 1911 was an accentuation of his prominence in the previous Senate, and he was regarded as one of the most potential of the group of Democratic leaders who shaped the important legislation of the General Assembly of 1911. He was Chairman of the Democratic Caucus of the Senate and was also Chairman of the Democratic Joint

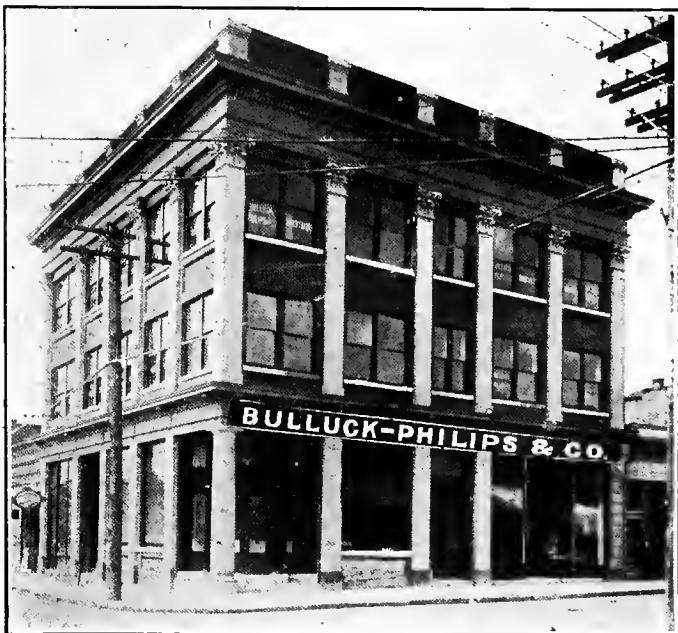
Caucus of the Senate and the House, this position carrying with it the formal leadership of the legislature. It is a very unusual occurrence for any one Senator to receive the honor of both these Chairmanships. Senator Bassett was also Chairman of the Committee on the Revisal, and a member of the Judiciary Committee; of the Committee on Appropriations, and on Finance, the next two ranking Committees of the Senate; of the Committees on Counties, Cities and Towns; Legislative Appointment; Constitutional Amendments; Insurance; and of the Conference Committee on the part of the Senate to consider and adjust the differences between the two Houses as to the provisions of the Revenue and Machinery Acts. Senator Bassett was also Chairman of the Calendar Committee. This is a position of the very greatest responsibility, in that it is the province of this committee (and most of the work devolves upon the Chairman) to sift the wheat from the chaff in the last days of the legislature, when it is too late to refer the hundreds of bills awaiting passage, to the various Committees in regular order. The stamp of approval or disapproval put upon any bill by the Calendar Committee, at this stage almost invariably means the life or death of such bill. It is a splendid tribute to the great respect and regard in which Senator Bassett was held by his colleagues in the Senate, that he was made Chairman of this powerful committee; for none but the most trusted and capable leaders ever receive this honor.

The Editors of this work and the people of Rocky Mount and Edgecombe county take pride in presenting here something of the record of Edgecombe's Senator; for the admiration the people have for his splendid ability, is only equalled by their respect and regard for the man himself, for his clean and upright character, and for the fidelity and efficiency with which he has met every trust that has ever been reposed in him, and has discharged every civic duty that has ever devolved upon him.

Senator Bassett is an influential member of the Masonic Fraternity, and an active force in local Sunday School work, performing diligently and faithfully, the full duties of true manhood and fine citizenship. His forceful personality is enlisted in favor of every proper cause, as it is given him to see it.

BULLUCK, PHILIPS & COMPANY

Rocky Mount's Leading Furniture and Undertaking House



No business concern in Rocky Mount has a cleaner or more successful record than that of Bulluck, Philips & Company. The firm is composed of Messrs. W. A. Bulluck, D. K. Styles and W. B. Philips, three of the ablest, most respected and most popular of this city's younger business men. Messrs. Bulluck and Styles with Mr. G. B. Byrd, who was their partner at that time, founded this business January 1st, 1906, under the name of Bulluck, Byrd & Company, the name being changed to Bulluck, Philips & Company in 1907 when Mr. Philips purchased the interest of Mr. Byrd.

Though Messrs. Bulluck and Styles, the active managers, are yet young men, Mr. Styles being thirty-two and Mr. Bulluck twenty-seven years of age, they are now the oldest furniture dealers in the city, having been actively engaged in this business since 1902. Their phenomenal and substantial growth has carried them in the five years since the establishment of the present firm from the comparatively small Barnes Building, a wooden structure, to the larger store at 115 Washington St., and thence to the magnificent quarters they now occupy.

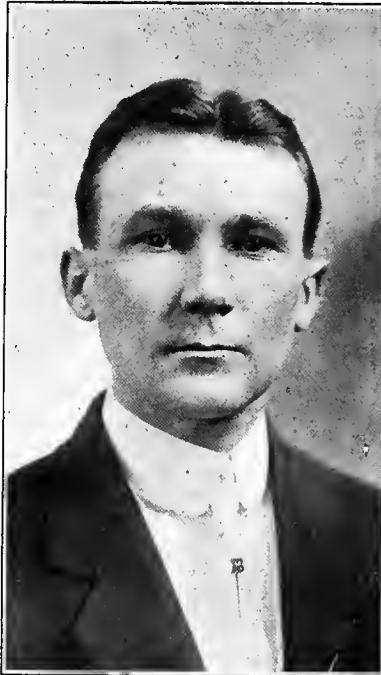
Their stock of furniture and of everything that goes to furnish an elegant modern home is exceptionally large and complete and of the highest grade. They

cater to people in every walk of life and keep a stock that will answer the demands from the most inexpensive to the most expensive. When a customer so desires, they will furnish his entire home complete on the basis of a small payment down and a very small sum payable monthly thereafter. This generous custom of theirs has indeed been a blessing to scores of homes that were not able to command the necessary money to pay all cash for their furniture. The kindness and liberality this firm has shown to hundreds of customers in this respect is one of the secrets of their popularity. They also have a complete embalming and undertaking department with a full line of coffins and caskets and all undertakers' supplies, including the finest hearse in the city. Mr. Styles, who assists in the undertaking department, is thoroughly competent and experienced, having taken a special course in embalming in the Renourd Training School for Embalmers, in New York. This firm also has the only morgue in the city, located on their third floor.

The story of the success of this concern and of these young men is one of the most remarkable in the annals of Rocky Mount. By square business methods, upright life and splendid business capacity they have created one of the very largest and strongest furniture businesses in Eastern North Carolina. They occupy at present four floors of the large, modern Shore Building, and also occupy a large part of the Barnes Building on East Washington street, and of the store-room on Washington St., recently vacated by Gorham-Matthews Hardware Company, and are using approximately twenty-five thousand square feet of floor space.

Messrs. Bulluck, Styles and Philips are all native born Rocky Mount men, and they have, by sheer ability, unfailing courtesy and square methods, attained their present enviable standing in the business circles of the city.

The people of Rocky Mount, recognizing Mr. Bulluck's fine ability and public spirit, elected him a member of the Board of Aldermen in June 1910. In this position he served with much usefulness until his removal from the ward



MR. W. A. BULLUCK.

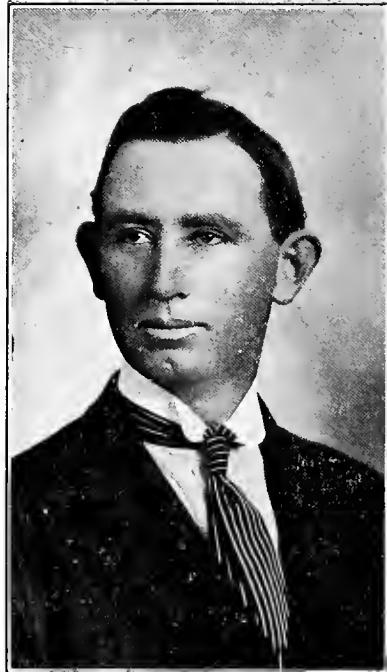


MR. D. K. STYLES

from which he had been elected, Mr. Bulluck was educated in the schools of Rocky Mount, and in his boyhood worked in the brokerage business with his uncle at Scotland Neck, N. C. Returning to Rocky Mount, he received four years' experience in the furniture business as salesman for Philips & Dowdy up to the time he went into business for himself.

Mr. Styles knows the furniture business in all its details and has well earned the success that has come to him winning at the same time the respect and esteem of everybody with whom he has come in contact.

With these three alert, aggressive and successful young business men behind it, and with the marked prominence already achieved, the future of the firm of Bulluck, Philips & Company is particularly bright and its usefulness to Rocky Mount very promising.



MR. W. B. PHILIPS



J F BISHOP JR.



JNO N. BATT



JESSE PITT

Selling force for Bulluck, Philips & Co.

ROCKY MOUNT SHOE COMPANY

One of the Largest and Highest Class Shoe Stores in North Carolina



INTERIOR VIEW OF ROCKY MOUNT SHOE CO. STORE.

The Rocky Mount Shoe Company began business in Rocky Mount in the spring of 1907 and was incorporated under the laws of North Carolina in 1910. Since it first opened in Rocky Mount, this store has been one of the most popular business places in the city. They carry only the highest class goods and cater always to the best people. Their line of shoes, both as to quality and as to the size of stock and completeness of range in the different styles, sizes and widths is not surpassed by any shoe store in North Carolina. In the line of haberdashery their prominence is undisputed, and the stock they carry has become the last word in styles in Rocky Mount.

It is not too much to say in this connection that there are few stores anywhere more artistically arranged or with neater and more inviting appearance. The managers of this store realize the fact that the public appreciates competent and courteous service and a pleasant place in which to shop, as well as goods of high quality.

The President of the Rocky Mount Shoe Company is Mr. R. E. Roberson, a prominent



MR. P. L. THIGPEN



MR. C. F. GETSINGER

and wealthy citizen of Palmyra, N. C. Besides his interest in the Rocky Mount Shoe Company, Mr. Roberson is a partner in the stores of Baker & Roberson at Palmyra and Harrison Bros. & Co., at Williamston. He has also large and lucrative farming interests.

The Secretary and Treasurer of the Rocky Mount Shoe Company is Mr. C. F. Getsinger, who is a native of Jamesville, N. C., having been born March 24th, 1881. Mr. Getsinger came to Rocky Mount in 1907 as Mr. Roberson's associate, to take charge of the Rocky Mount Shoe Company and it is to his fine business ability and uniform courtesy, that a large portion of the success of this company is due. Both in a business and a social way, Mr. Getsinger is one of the most popular and respected of Rocky Mount's younger business men. Mr. Getsinger is an active member of the First Methodist Church of Rocky Mount and of the Pythian Fraternity.

Mr. Percy L. Thigpen, the Vice-President of the Rocky Mount Shoe Company, was born near Tarboro, January 20th, 1884, and came of a prominent Edgecombe county family. He came to Rocky Mount in October 1904 as a salesman for The Blount Cympany which position he occupied with eminent satisfaction to his employers until January 1st, 1910. On this latter date, he became interested in the Rocky Mount Shoe Company and was elected Vice-President of the same and one of its active managers. Mr. Thigpen is thoroughly conversant with the details and responsibilities of the business and by his straight-forward methods and courteous and upright bearing has won the respect and esteem of a large circle of friends in this city and thereby contributed materially to the success of this company.

All in all, it might be said that with two young and aggressive business men of sterling character in charge like Mr. Getsinger and Mr. Thigpen, The Rocky Mount Shoe Company was bound to succeed, and the prominent position this firm now occupies in the retail business circles of the city is therefore not a matter of wonder.

GRIFFIN'S DRUG STORE



1885

1911 ✓

INTERIOR VIEW GRIFFIN'S DRUG STORE



MR. HUGH A. GRIFFIN, Manager

Griffin's Drug Store was one of the earliest business houses established in the city, then a village of only a few hundred inhabitants. In 1885 Mr. J. M. Griffin, a young man of Washington, N. C., acquired the business from Dr. Powell, for whom he had previously clerked. He soon became widely known and loved by all his patrons for his kindly and courteous manner and his unwavering loyalty to their interest and welfare. Under his hustling and energetic management the business grew and prospered, and became known to the people throughout both counties.

Since the death of Mr. Griffin in 1901 the business has continued to be run under the old name so well known to the whole community, and with the same attention to its old policy of reliability and accuracy, promptness and courtesy.

The present manager, Mr. H. A. Griffin is a son of the founder and former owner, and a young man of exceptional ability and personality. He graduated with honors from the College of Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina, in 1908 and was licensed in the same year. Mr. Griffin is ably assisted by Mr. George Hart, a registered druggist, for years associated with the Thomas Drug Co., of Duke, N. C., Mr. E. V. Woodard and Mr. J. M. Griffin.

During the twenty five years of its active business this house has kept abreast of all modern methods, and has ever stood for the best interest of the community and the developement of the city. No better criterion of its honesty and reliability could be cited than that of its continued growth, and the fact that no error has ever occurred in the whole course of twenty-five years of active business to mar its record. A business house of unusual stability, striving for the end of the mutual advantage of itself, and its patrons, with reliability and accuracy as its motto, this firm has had a larger part in our great growth and prosperity as a city.

GEM THEATRE—Rocky Mount's Popular Playhouse

One of the innovations that have been introduced within the past few years, and which have become very popular, are the moving picture theatres. From the beginning it was seen that these theatres were not only a source of

much innocent diversion and pleasure, at a minimum cost, but were really important educational factors to the large body of people who patronize them, giving them an insight and a knowledge of the physical parts of the different countries and cities of the world and of historical incidents that cannot fail to be understood by even the most unlettered.

The Gem Theatre in Rocky Mount, owned and operated by Messrs. W. F. Swaringen and J. A. Edgerton, is one of the most efficiently conducted and popular of these playhouses in the eastern section of North Carolina. Here are shown not only several new films of attractive pictures every night, but a class of vaudeville performances that are really creditable to a theatre where the admission price is as low as it is here, five, ten and fifteen cents.

Mr. Swaringen is one of the best known and most capable vaudeville managers in the South and is also the head of the Carolina Booking Exchange, which has its main office in Charlotte, with a branch office in Rocky Mount, managed by Mr. J. A. Edgerton, and books performances for a chain of theatres that reach all the way from Virginia to middle Georgia. In addition to his theatre in Rocky Mount, Mr. Swaringen owns and operates the Orpheum Theatre, in Charlotte, N. C., which is the headquarters of his booking business. Mr. Swaringen was formerly well known in the North Carolina newspaper field, being for a number of years editor and owner of the Edenton Transcript. He left the newspaper business to enter the amusement world about two years ago and the success he has won in his new field in so short a time is proof that he possesses ability of more than ordinary class. Mr. Edgerton looks after the management of the Gem Theatre in this city.



GEM THEATRE

of the Carolina Booking Exchange, which has its main office in Charlotte, with a branch office in Rocky Mount, managed by Mr. J. A. Edgerton, and books performances for a chain of theatres that reach all the way from Virginia to middle Georgia. In addition to his theatre in Rocky Mount, Mr. Swaringen owns and operates the Orpheum Theatre, in Charlotte, N. C., which is the headquarters of his booking business. Mr. Swaringen was formerly well known in the North Carolina newspaper field, being for a number of years editor and owner of the Edenton Transcript. He left the newspaper business to enter the amusement world about two years ago and the success he has won in his new field in so short a time is proof that he possesses ability of more than ordinary class. Mr. Edgerton looks after the management of the Gem Theatre in this city.



RESIDENCE OF HON. F. S. SPRUILL



MR. M. V. BARNHILL

U. S. Commissioner and Attorney At Law

The subject of this sketch, Mr. Maurice Victor Barnhill, is one of the most prominent of the younger members of the Rocky Mount and Nash County Bar.

Mr. Barnhill was born in Enfield, Halifax County, N. C., December 5th, 1887 and is therefore only twenty-three years old. He is a son of Martin V. and Mary (Dawes) Barnhill, his mother being a sister of Senator John Dawes of Elm City, N. C.

Mr. Barnhill was educated in the Enfield Graded Schools and in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

During 1907 when only twenty years old, he was Assistant Cashier of the Toisnot Banking Company of Elm City, N. C., making an enviable record in the short time he was engaged in the banking business. Going back to Chapel Hill, he read the prescribed course in Law, and was licensed to practice by the Supreme Court of North Carolina in February 1909. He immediately located in Raleigh for the practice of his profession forming a copartnership with Mr. Walter H. Grimes, a leading young attorney of the Capital city. Mr. Barnhill practiced law in Raleigh until March 1910, when he came to Rocky Mount to permanently locate.

Here, Mr. Barnhill is by his close application, upright life and fine ability, achieving success, and has already built up a nice practice within this short time.

During the campaign of 1910, he was appointed by the Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, leader for Nash County of the Young Men's Movement which contributed materially to the great Democratic victory won in North Carolina and the nation last year.

In February 1911, as a further recognition of Mr. Barnhill's ability and fine character, he was appointed U. S. Commissioner by U. S. Judge Connor, and is filling this position with credit to himself, and with thorough satisfaction to the governmental authorities.

Mr. Barnhill is at present, Attorney for a number of corporations, including the Sharpsburg Banking Company, the town of Sharpsburg, the town of Elm City, and the Toisnot Banking Company of Elm City. He is regarded among the profession as a very promising practitioner, one who holds in high regard and respect, the ideals and ethics of his profession, and withal, possesses those sterling qualities of character which must constitute the foundation of success in any walk of life.

Mr. Barnhill is unmarried.

His offices are over Kyser's Drug Store in the central section of the city.

MR. LEIGH DAVIS BULLUCK

Proprietor of Bulluck's Garage, Bulluck's Automobile Training School, and Rocky Mount's Leading Automobile Expert and Dealer. Cars For Sale, Hire and Exchange

One of the most striking effects of the building of good roads in the surrounding country and the paving of the streets of Rocky Mount has been seen in the great increase in popularity of automobiles as a means of transit during the past few years, and in the great number of machines that are now owned by citizens of Rocky Mount.

The leading automobile dealer in the city is Mr. L. D. Bulluck, and his garage in the Rose building on Main street, is one of the largest in Eastern North Carolina. On one floor he has approximately 6,500 square feet of floor space, with cement floor, sufficient to store comfortably, forty cars, and an average of fifteen cars can be found in this garage every night.

The famous Overland, Oakland, Reo, Brush, Hupmobile and E. M. F. cars are here stored and handled.

Mr. Bulluck's automobile repair department is one of the most complete and efficient in North Carolina. He employs only expert machinists, and all the work done is the very best that skill and the utmost care can produce. He carries a full line of all accessories and also a complete line of tubes and casings to fit any car now in use. 5 per cent discount is given for cash.

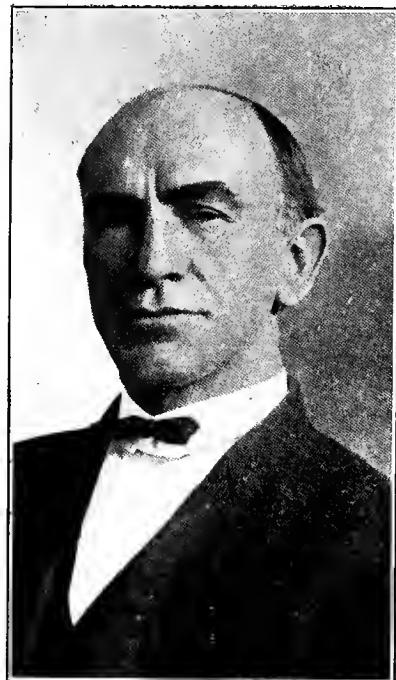
Another feature of this big establishment is a painting and finishing department, carrying an extensive line of paints and crude material and employing an expert painter and finisher who has given his life to this business. This department is prepared to do all kinds of painting and finishing, especially automobiles of all makes, carriages, hearses; and repairs and refinishes high grade and antique furniture. The excellence of the work of this department is well known and has been widely commented on.

Beginning the first of the present year, Mr. Bulluck has been conducting at his garage, an Automobile Training School, which has been eminently successful so far, and is rapidly acquiring a reputation for thorough and conscientious instruction both as to the mechanism of all makes of automobiles and in the capacity to handle them. Men totally without experience are here put through a course of training that in a short time thoroughly fits them for any class of service in the care and handling of automobiles.

Mr. Bulluck is one of the best known and most reliable automobile and mechanical experts in eastern North

Carolina. For twenty one years he has been engaged exclusively in business that has covered almost every department and class of mechanical work. His methods are direct, thorough and effective.

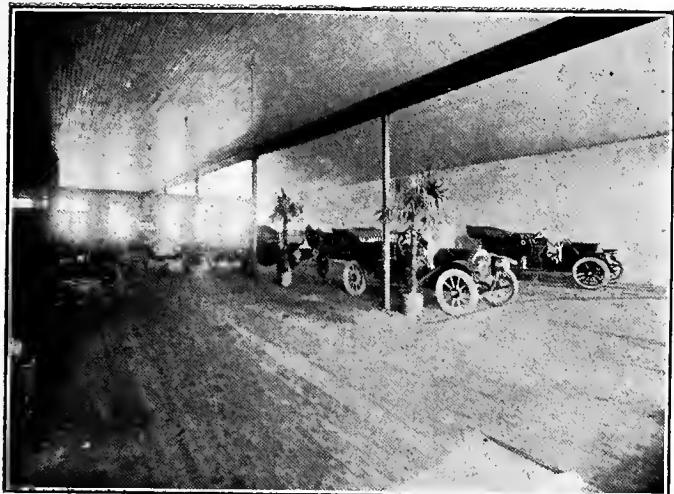
Mr. Leigh Davis Bulluck is a descendant of one of the oldest and most prominent Edgecombe County families, which has long been widely connected and closely identified with the county's business and social life. Mr. Bulluck himself was born in Halifax County, January 22nd 1863. His father moved back to



LEIGH DAVIS BULLUCK



BULLUCK'S GARAGE



INTERIOR VIEW BULLUCK'S GARAGE

automobile and mechanical expert, whose business it is to hold himself subject to calls from other towns.

Mr. Bulluck was married December 31st 1903 in Mount Lebanon Church, Baltimore, Md., to Miss Mary Ketubah Kelly of the distinguished Maryland family of that name. The birthplace of Mrs. Bulluck is in Somerset Co., on the eastern shore of Maryland. Mrs. Bulluck is a lady of intellectual strength and charming grace, and with generations of culture and refinement behind her, has naturally become a social favorite in Rocky Mount. Mr. and Mrs. Bulluck have one child, a son, Master Leigh Davis Bulluck, Jr., who is an interesting and spirited young gentleman of six years.

GEORGE T. BURNETTE.

Insurance, Real Estate And Bonds.

One of the fastest growing real estate, insurance and bonding businesses in Rocky Mount today is that of Mr. George T. Burnette, whose offices are located on Main St., next to Kyser's Drug Company. This business was established by Mr. Burnette in 1906, and each year has shown a steady and substantial growth in scope and in the amount of business transacted. Mr. Burnette does a general insurance business in all its branches, including life, fire, accident, burglary, health and plate glass. He represents the following, which are among the best standard fire insurance companies in the world: The Royal Exchange of London, the Security of New Haven, the Spring Garden of Philadelphia, Teutonia of New Orleans, Franklin of Philadelphia, Equitable Fire of Charleston, Central National of Chicago, Monongahela of Pittsburg, Milwaukee Mechanics' of Milwaukee, Wis., and the Underwriters Fire of Rocky Mount. In life and accident insurance he represents the State Life Insurance Company of Indiana, the Travelers of Hartford, Conn., the Pennsylvania Casualty Company, and the National Surety Company, a leading bonding company.

Mr. Burnette's real estate transactions are becoming of greater magnitude each year. He is now the manager of the Villa Place Property, an extensive and most desirable residential section in the Western part of the city. There are no more desirable lots for building purposes in Rocky Mount than the lots which are included in this property.

Mr. Burnette is a native of Castalia, Nash County, N. C., and was born May 26, 1879. He was educated in the public schools of Nash County and when 19 years old, went to Florence, S. C., and established a hardware, plumbing and tinning business, which he afterward sold to his brother. From that time (1902) until 1906 he was travelling salesman for leading wholesale hardware companies of Richmond and Charleston with headquarters at Florence and Sumter, S. C., returning to his native county in 1906 and establishing his present business. He was married Jan. 1st, 1904 to Miss Blanche Lewis of Florence, S. C. Mr. Burnette is recognized as an insurance and real estate man of splendid ability, and by his honorable business dealings and blameless life has acquired quite an enviable position in the business world of Rocky Mount.



MR. GEO. T. BURNETTE



INTERIOR VIEW OF MR. GEO. T. BURNETTE'S OFFICE

ABRAM BOOK COMPANY.

Rocky Mount people can indeed point with pride to the Abram Book Company. In neatness, inviting appearance, tasteful and artistic arrangement of the interior, as well as for the skillful business insight evidenced by the show windows, and the quality and amount of stock carried, this store does not have an equal in its class in North Carolina. It is really a pleasure for any one who appreciates the artistic in life, to pay the store of Mr. Abram a visit, for not only will they find any kind of literature desired, but his stock consists of pictures of all descriptions, novelties, picture frames, brass and leather goods, and he advertises that he can sell anything to a business man in the way of modern office conveniences. He also does a wholesale business in wrapping paper and paper bags, and in fact does a large out of town business in all the lines.



INTERIOR VIEW ABRAM BOOK COMPANY

years of age, but is already a member of the Board of Aldermen of Rocky Mount, a position of much honor in this city, and is performing well the public duties that have devolved upon him.

Mr. Abram established this business in the Fall of 1909, in the Planters Bank Building, but his business steadily grew until he required larger quarters, and the first of the present year he moved to his present large store in the Jenkins Building on Tarboro Street, an interior view of which is given in this book.

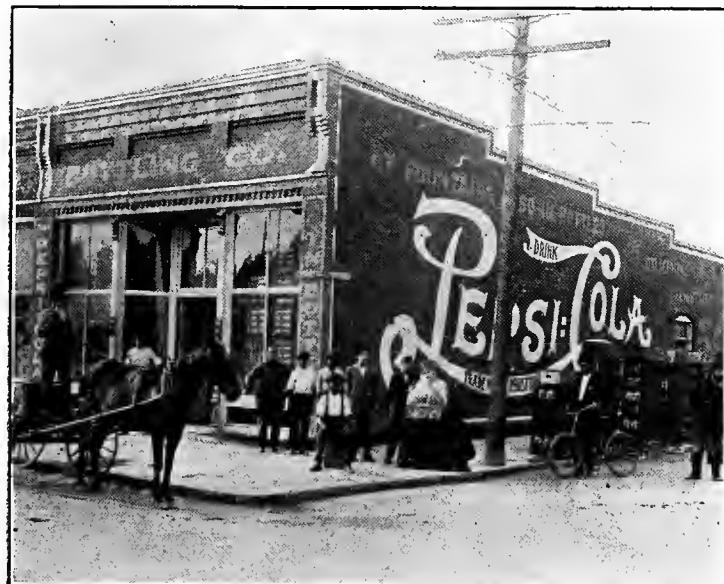
Mr. Abram is yet a young man, thirty one

ROCKY MOUNT PEPSI-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY, Inc.

This Company is Rocky Mount's leading manufacturer of all kinds of soft drinks, the favorite product of the plant being the famous and universally enjoyed drink, Pepsi-Cola. This company was organized in January, 1907,

and during the four years of its existence has built up an extensive and lucrative wholesale trade throughout several counties surrounding Rocky Mount. The company has a large and splendidly equipped plant at the corner of Washington and Marigold Streets, where they have every modern improvement, and device to facilitate the rapid and sanitary production of their numerous kinds of non-alcoholic beverages.

The one supreme object, towards which every effort is directed at this plant, is absolute cleanliness and purity of the drinks manufactured. The plant is washed up every day and every utensil is thoroughly sterilized. The water that is used is filtered by the city of Rocky Mount, and in addition this Bottling Plant has its own filtering system, and here the water is filtered a second time, thus insuring the maximum of purity. The bottles that are used go through several processes of cleansing. First they stay in a caustic soda solution for twenty minutes, which is twice as strong as lye, and are washed three times in three different streams of running water during which process a rubber cleanser, operated by machinery, scours the inside. After having gone through this





MR. GEORGE N. COOK, Manager

process, there is simply no question that they are entirely clean and sanitary. The floor and syrup rooms receive daily attention, the floors being of cement with running water at hand everywhere.

The stockholders in this concern are Messrs. George N. Cook, George L. Morgan and J. D. Farrior, and the manager, as has been stated above, is Mr. Cook.

Mr. Cook is a native of Franklin County, N. C., and was born March 23, 1883. He was raised on the farm and received his education in the public schools of Franklin County and at Richmond College. He came to Rocky Mount first in January 1902, holding a position with Matthews, Weeks & Company, Wholesale Grocers, and later for two years, was manager of a wholesale grocery concern in Edenton, N. C., returning to Rocky Mount to accept a position with the Rocky Mount Ice & Fuel Company. In January 1910, he purchased a large interest in his present business, The Rocky Mount Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, and was elected its manager. In the management of the business Mr. Cook has evidenced ability of a high order, the Company under his control having rapidly extended its scope of operations and largely increased its trade. He is one of the most popular and most respected of the city's younger business element, being a member of a number of clubs and fraternal organizations.

The non-alcoholic beverages manufactured by this Company are becoming more and more popular in this territory, and as the trade becomes better and better acquainted with the fine conditions prevailing at the plant, and with the absolute cleanliness with which the drinks are manufactured, larger orders and a wider popularity are the results.



MR. HOWARD COHEN

ROCKY MOUNT'S FIVE AND TEN CENT STORE

MR. HOWARD COHEN, Proprietor

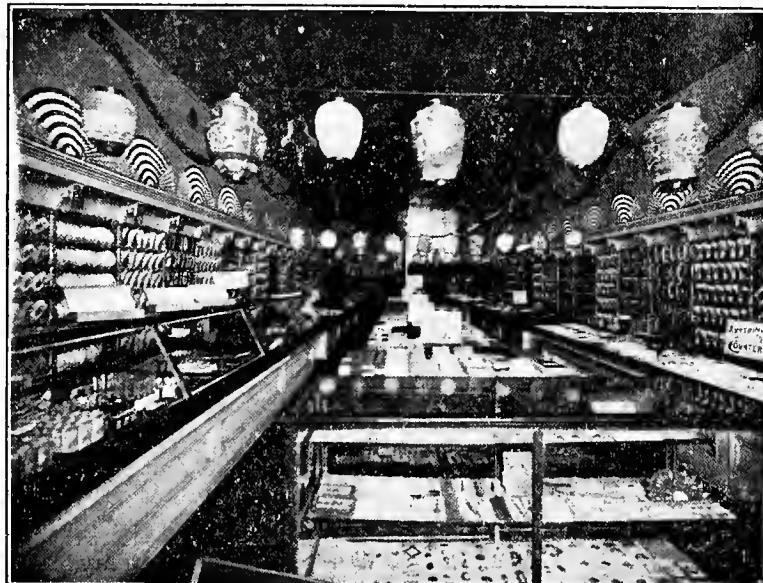
One of the centres of interest for the Rocky Mount shopping trade is Cohen's Five and Ten Cent Store, situated on Main Street, two doors from the Post Office.

This store was established by Mr. Howard Cohen October 1st, on a very small scale, it being a new thing to Rocky Mount. Mr. Cohen, who is a native of Savannah, Ga., and is now but twenty five years old, had previously been with the Atlanta Store of S. H. Kress & Company, who operate Five, Ten and Twenty Five Cent Stores all over the United States. Putting into practical use in Rocky Mount, the ideas and experience he has gained while with Kress, Mr. Cohen has built up his Rocky Mount business with wonderful rapidity. He carries now large and varied lines making at least ten times the stock that he carried when he opened business a year and half ago, and it is a very poorly informed person in Rocky Mount or this whole surrounding territory who does not know of the Rocky Mount Five and Ten Cent Store. That he has succeeded to such a large extent in so short a time, is proof positive that Mr. Cohen not only knows his business but possesses the ability and capacity to properly manage it with its thousand and one details and worries.

Mr. Cohen, as has been stated was born in Savannah, Ga., and received his education at the Poughkeepsie Military Academy, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

The assistant manager of the store is Miss Lena Powell, a gifted and attractive young lady with a good business head. She is a daughter of Mr. W. F. Powell,

who came to Rocky Mount from Nashville, N. C. seven years ago. Miss Powell has been with Mr. Cohen ever since the store opened, and it is but just to say that a good part of the credit for its success is due to her intelligent and creditable work.



INTERIOR VIEW FIVE AND TEN CENT STORE



RESIDENCE OF MR. J. C. STOUT

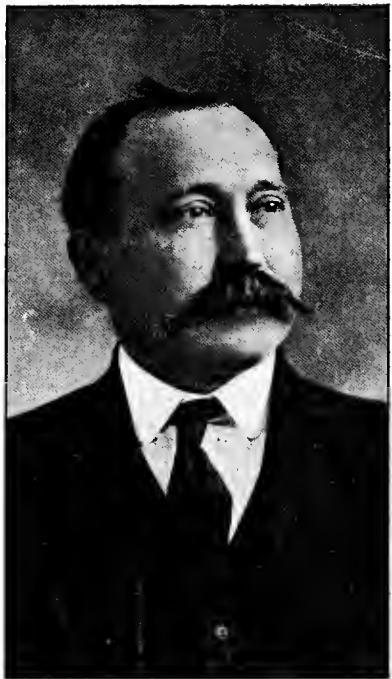
JOHN C. STOUT

Architect and Builder

Few, if any, architects in N. C., are better known or have a finer reputation, than John C. Stout, of Rocky Mount. A thorough master of his craft, and adding to this the strength of high character and excellent business ability, he has won the confidence of a wide and select clientele throughout this and other states.

Among the buildings which he has designed in Rocky Mount are the residences of Mr. T. J. Hackney, Mr. J. C. Braswell, Mr. D. D. Cuthrell, Hon. F. S. Spruill, Capt. John D. Bulluck, Jr., Isaac Levy, The First National Bank Building, Philips Building and other buildings too numerous to mention.

Mr. Stout is a prominent member of the Masonic Order, being a Past Master of St. John's Lodge No. 1 Wilmington, N. C. He is also a Knight Templar and Shriner and a 32nd degree Mason.



MR. T. L. WORSLEY

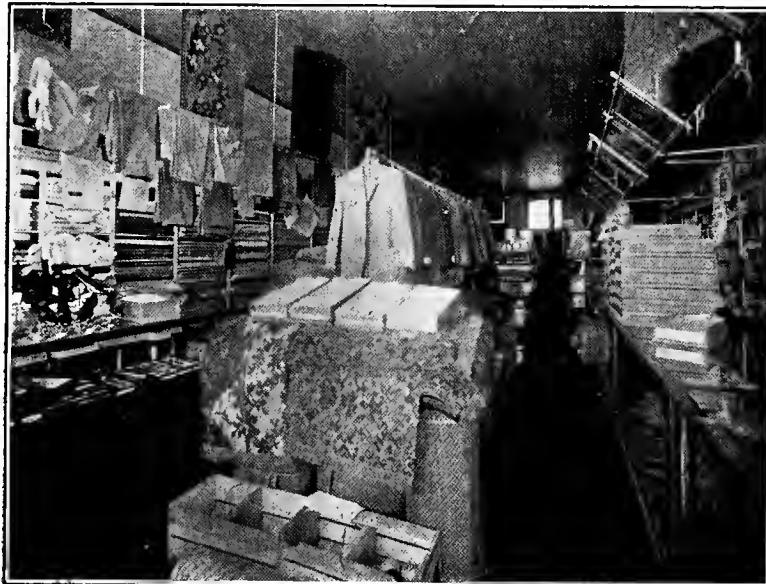
MR. T. L. WORSLEY

Groceries, Clothing and General Merchandise A Popular and Fast Growing Store

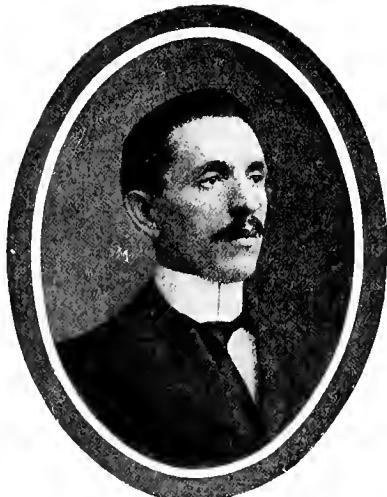
This is one of the most popular grocery stores in the city and a great center for the general country trade. The proprietor and manager is Mr. T. L. Worsley, one of the best known and most respected citizens of the city. Mr. Worsley established his present business in the year 1899 on Washington Street, just a few doors from the large place he now occupies. Each year since, the business has shown a substantial growth, and each year has seen a broadening of its trade and an increase in popularity. These facts are accounted for by the unvarying politeness and consideration shown his customers by Mr. Worsley and his assistants, and by his policy of square dealing and of rendering absolute satisfaction to everybody who trades at his store. He carries a large stock of general merchandise, including clothing, dry goods, hats, shoes and notions, and one of the most complete and up to date stocks of groceries in Rocky Mount.

Mr. Worsley, himself, is a native of Rocky Mount, having been born almost within sight of the city, on May 22, 1868. He comes of sturdy Edgecombe County parentage, and in his business affairs he has shown evidences of fine ability, which have won for him a prominent place in the business life of this community. Leaving the farm, Mr. Worsley first entered the leaf tobacco business in Rocky Mount, and was successfully engaged in that business until 1899, when he established his present business. He was married December 28, 1898 to Miss Annie Madry, of Scotland Neck, N. C. Mr. and Mrs. Worsley have two children,

Mr. Worsley is assisted in his business by Messrs. J. T. D. Avent of the prominent Nash County family of that name, H. Z. Luper, and L. E. Sumner, who is also a native of Rocky Mount. Mr. Worsley's efficient and popular bookkeeper is Miss Mattie Avent, daughter of Mr. J. T. D. Avent. Two delivery boys are employed by the store all the time, as Mr. Worsley makes it his policy to deliver promptly and without cost, all merchandise ordered by his customers in the city. The phone numbers are 153 and 270.



INTERIOR VIEW MR. T. L. WORSLEY'S STORE



MR. E. EPSTEIN

As a citizen of Rocky Mount, Mr. Epstein is useful and forceful, and his public spirit is well-known. Every movement having for its object the progress of the city, can always count upon his substantial support. He was one of the promoters and is a charter member of the present Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Epstein has a handsome residence at the corner of Franklin St., and Western Avenue where he and his family reside.

MR. E. EPSTEIN

Clothing, Shoes and Haberdashery

This is one of the leading clothing stores, not only of Rocky Mount, but of all this section of the State.

Mr. Epstein carries such well-known and popular lines as Kuppenheimer Clothing, Edwin Clapp Shoes, Hawes Hats and Eclipse Shirts, and has an enviable patronage among the higher classes of the trade, to whom he especially caters.

The present clothing house of E. Epstein was established in Rocky Mount in March 1905, Mr. Epstein coming here from Goldsboro, where he had previously been in business with his brother, under the firm name of Epstein Bros.

By his upright life, splendid ability, and honorable business methods, he has built a reputation for his store in Rocky Mount, the value of which it is hard to estimate.

Carrying an immense stock of the highest quality in every line, and honestly representing every article sold, his popularity is not to be wondered at.



INTERIOR VIEW OF MR. E. EPSTEIN'S STORE



MR. GEO. F. HARRÈLL

MR. GEORGE F. HARRELL

Proprietor of the Leading Bicycle and Sporting Goods Store

The store of George F. Harrell, on Main Street, has become within the past few years, one of the best and most favorably known stores of its class in eastern North Carolina. The extent and diversity of the stock carried has brought almost every citizen of this section in touch with this business in one way or another, and the uniform courtesy, square dealing and fair prices which have characterized all of Mr. Harrell's business transactions with the public have made his store very popular with all classes of the trade.

It is probable that nowhere else in this section of the state can so complete and high class lines of the goods carried, be found. The lines include bicycles of the following standard makes: Racycle, Rambler, Cleveland, Reading Standard,iver Johnson, Eagle; Edison Phonographs and Victor Talking Machines from the cheapest to the costliest types; Eastman Kodaks; Spaulding's Baseball and sporting goods; tennis goods; shot guns and rifles in all the standard makes; revolvers; full stock of up-to-date phonograph records; numerous lines that are usually found in a regular hardware store, and a full line of electrical equipment and apparatus. The electrical department of this store has lately grown into an important division, and is doing inside wiring in some of the most elegant Rocky Mount residences.

In addition to his electrical department, Mr. Harrell also conducts the most complete bicycle and mechanical repair department in the city, employing expert mechanics and doing a grade of work that is eminently satisfactory to his patrons.



Interior View of Mr. G. F. Harrell's Store

This large business has been built up within the past three and one-half years, and it is but just to the man whose brains and energy created it, to say that with its thousands of details, it has required a high order of ability, originality and fine business management, and its success today is a proof that those qualities are combined in Mr. Harrell, who though very unassuming, has come to be regarded as a safe and excellently equipped business man, in the trade circles of the city.

Mr. Harrell is a native of Gates county, N. C., born April 8, 1880. In his early youth, he left the farm on which he was reared and went to Portsmouth, Va., to work for his uncle. He entered business for himself first at Pinners Point, Va., in 1901, opening a sporting goods store, which he conducted until his desire for a larger field and better opportunities brought him to Rocky Mount in the fall of 1907. Mr. Harrell has, therefore, spent his whole business life thus far in the same business in which he is now engaged, another proof of the fact that this is a day of specialists, and that to succeed it is almost invariably necessary to choose a vocation and then stick to it. Mr. Harrell has done that, and has succeeded, and according to all indications, the future holds for him yet a greater measure of success.

Besides his qualities as a business man, Mr. Harrell is a good citizen, always being willing to contribute his part to any movement that will benefit his adopted city. He is respected and esteemed by a large and increasing number of friends, and acquaintances, aside from the hundreds of pleased and satisfied customers whose names are on his books.

THORPE & RICKS—Leaf Tobacco
ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.



Tobacco Prizery of Thorpe & Ricks

IT PAYS

The manufacturer and dealer to buy on Rocky Mount Market because our tobacco is of superior quality,

IT PAYS

The farmer to sell on Rocky Mount Market because prices are steady and always as high as others.

THE ROCKY MOUNT HOMESTEAD & LOAN ASSOCIATION

The Oldest and Largest Institution of Its Kind in Rocky Mount Is Rapidly Making Rocky Mount A City of Home-Owners

After all is said, there is probably no more useful institution in Rocky Mount today than the Rocky Mount Homestead & Loan Association. This association offers one of the best plans yet devised for investment of savings, and especially for those who wish to invest their savings in the building of a home. This company was organized in 1902, and it would be very difficult to estimate with any degree of accuracy the large number of people that it has made home-owners, and the number of salaried people whom it has enabled to get together their first nest eggs. It is a strictly local institution, having for its sole object the promotion of habits of saving and thrift among our people, and leading them to practice economy with a view of owning their own homes and becoming independent. The officers of this company, who are among the leading business men and capitalists of this section, serve the association entirely without pay, and in every respect the expenses are reduced to a minimum. It is a splendid tribute to the unselfish and capable service rendered by the managers of this institution, that never in its history has this association lost a penny. One reason for this is that it is a fixed rule of this institution that before any loan is made, not only all the officers, but every director, must pass upon it; and the approval must be unanimous, or the loan does not go through. Every cent of the money paid in by the shareholders is kept continually at work, as the officers do not believe in the policy of carrying a large unnecessary balance in the bank, which would draw no interest. In this way, every precaution and safeguard is thrown around the money of the shareholders in order that it may not only be perfectly safe against loss, but that it may earn the largest possible dividends.

The growth of this association has been rapid and substantial. At its organization there were less than four hundred subscribers. Now, there are thirty-five hundred shares in force, and six hundred shares have been matured and cancelled, the association paying out to its shareholders within the past two years, (\$60,000.00) sixty thousand dollars. The officers and directors of this association have been referred to in this book in connection with other enterprises, with which they are actively connected, and no sketch of them will be attempted here. It suffices to say that all the offices and directors are known to the public as men of large interests and fine ability, in whose integrity the people of Rocky Mount have every confidence.

To Mr. R. L. Huffines, to whose initiative and promotion the existence of this most useful concern is due more than to any other cause, a large share of the credit for its fine and worthful accomplishments must be given.

The full list of the officers and directors of this association are as follows: President, Mr. Thomas H. Battle; Vice-President, Mr. W. H. Newell; Secretary & Treasurer, Mr. R. L. Huffines; Directors, Messrs. A. P. Thorpe, John M. Donlan, W. H. Newell, M. Oppenheimer, J. Q. Robinson, R. M. Williams, E. W. Smith, Thomas H. Battle, W. F. James and R. L. Huffines.

ROCKY MOUNT INSURANCE & REALTY COMPANY

Insurance, Real Estate, Bonds, Loans, Rental Agents.
One of the Strongest Real Estate and Insurance Organi-
zations in Eastern Carolina, and the Oldest in
Rocky Mount

Few, if any, business organizations have been more intimately concerned and active in the growth and progress of Rocky Mount during the past decade than the Rocky Mount Insurance & Realty Co., and its predecessors, Battle & Huffines, and Huffines & Davis. This Company is, perhaps, the largest and most extensive dealer in real estate in this section of North Carolina, buying and selling on commission and also for investment. They handle an immense amount of city property annually and many thousand acres of land outside of the city, extending over several counties and even in other states, in fact, wherever it appears profitable to them to deal.

Every branch and character of insurance is done here, and the volume of their insurance business has grown to such proportions that they rank among the first concerns of this character in North Carolina. They represent thirty of the leading fire insurance companies of the world, writing a great volume of business not only in life and fire, but in burglary, accident, steam boilers, plate glass liability, and other forms of insurance. Their fire insurance business actually extends from the mountains to the sea, and they write quite a large amount of insurance in Wilmington, Asheville and other leading cities of the state outside of Rocky Mount. Their rental department, established in October, 1906, has become a very important feature of the business, and a large proportion of the most select and valuable property in the city is rented and the rents collected through their agency.

In addition to their insurance, real estate and rental departments, they maintain and conduct one of the largest loan departments in the city, lending money on real estate, abstracting the titles and absolutely guaranteeing all the loans they make. During the past year they have placed in this community, on real estate, loans to the amount of approximately one hundred thousand dollars from money obtained for this purpose from the insurance companies which they represent and from other sources. To show the splendid ability displayed in the management of this business it might be stated that since its organization in 1906 it has never paid less than ten per cent annual dividends, sometime going above that figure, and at the same time it has in addition accumulated a surplus that is now almost equal to the capital, which is (\$25,000.00) twenty-five thousand dollars.

As has been stated, the predecessors of this company were Battle & Huffines, organized in 1900, and doing then an insurance business exclusively; and Huffines & Davis, a firm that was organized in 1904 and whose business the present company took over. The founder, general manager and moving spirit of this company always has been and is now Mr. R. L. Huffines, one of the most versatile, forceful and successful business men in this section of the state. As an insurance man, Mr. Huffines is known over several states as one of the ablest and most successful in the business. The large and profitable deals in real estate, which he is constantly engineering and consummating for his company, have placed him in the front ranks of Eastern Carolina real estate operators.

Mr. Huffines is a native of Rockingham County, N. C., and was born in 1873. He was educated at Oak Ridge Institute, and came to Rocky Mount in 1893 when twenty years of age. Since that time he has thoroughly identified himself with and contributed a considerable share in all the developments and progressive steps that have made Rocky Mount the progressive city it is today. Mr. Huffines was married in 1898 to Miss Carrie Whitehead, the attractive and gifted daughter of the late lamented Dr. W. H. Whitehead, who had won eminence in his profession in this city, having been at one time President of the Medical Examining Board of North Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. Huffines have four children, and have a beautiful and commodious home at the corner of Franklin Street and Sunset Ave., in a select residential section of the city.

A full list of the officers of the Rocky Mount Insurance & Realty Company is as follows: President, Mr. Thomas H. Battle; Vice President and General Manager, Mr. R. L. Huffines; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. J. A. Smith; Attorney, Hon. W. L. Thorpe; Adjuster, Mr. Benjamin M. Brothers; Manager of Rental Department, Mr. H. L. Redmond; Stenographer, Miss Maude Philips; Directors, Messrs. T. J. Hackney, W. L. Groom, John M. Donlan, F. C. Ferguson, P. C. Shore, Paul W. Schenck, G. T. Matthews, W. L. Thorpe, Thomas H. Battle and R. L. Huffines.

To the thousands who know the men named above on the Board of Directors, and as Officers, the strength and entire reliability of this company will become patent at a glance. They are men who have been at the helm all the

way from the time Rocky Mount was a village until the present time, and represent resources that it would be hard to calculate. Something of most of them is told elsewhere in the book in connection with the sketches of other large interests with which they are actively connected.

The Secretary and Treasurer of the Rocky Mount Insurance & Realty Company is Mr. James Addison Smith, one of the most popular young business men in the city, competent and reliable in every respect, and possessing the full confidence of his business associates. Mr. Smith is a native of Swansontown, Pittsylvania County, Va., and was born on October 23, 1883. He came to Tarboro, N. C. in 1902, accepting a position with the Pamlico Insurance & Banking Company of that town. He came to Rocky Mount February 1, 1906 to assume the position which he now occupies. His fine business qualities and excellent character, together with his uniform courtesy, have given him a secure position in Rocky Mount social and business circles. He is a member of the Elks and Pythian Fraternities.

The Company's Adjuster, Mr. Benjamin M. Brothers, is a man of fine business sagacity, and is rendering the company very satisfactory service in a very difficult and responsible position. He first became connected with this company in 1909. He is employed the major portion of his time as Adjuster for the companies in the settlement of losses in Eastern Carolina and also acts as assistant to Mr. Huffines in the management of the insurance department. Mr. Brothers came here from Richmond, Va., his home, where he was formerly connected with the Virginia State Insurance Company, and with the insurance department of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company. He brought a very fine record to Rocky Mount, and the work he has done since he came here has proven that he was worthy of it.

The manager of the Rental Department, Mr. H. L. Redmond, is a native of Edgecombe County, and was born near Tarboro on May 4, 1881. Mr. Redmond was raised on the farm and acquired those sturdy qualities of character that are usually won by such a life. He came to Rocky Mount in 1910 to accept his present position, and is making a fine record as one of the best, most efficient and most effective collectors in the city.

The stenographer of the Company, and one of its most valued employees, is Miss Maude Philips, daughter of the late Mr. John W. Philips of Edgecombe County. Miss Philips was educated at the famous school of St. Mary's in Raleigh, N. C., and has been with Mr. Huffines in his insurance and other business since April 15, 1901. She understands the business thoroughly, is devoted to the interests of the company, and withal possesses excellent business judgment. These facts have given her a standing with the company that is rarely attained by stenographers, and it would be hard to estimate the great value and advantage of her long service and loyalty to the interests of Mr. Huffines and of the company.

The offices of the Rocky Mount Insurance & Realty Company are in the Bank of Rocky Mount Building on Main Street next to the Postoffice.



Bank of Rocky Mount and Offices of Rocky Mount Insurance & Realty Co.

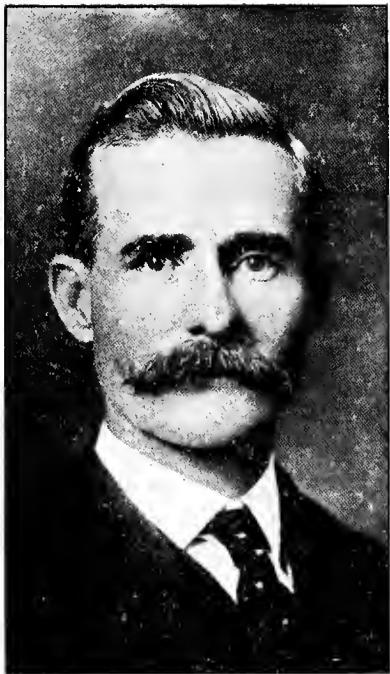


GASTON G. LEVY & BRO. One of the Leading Grocery Con- cerns of this City

The firm of Gaston G. Levy & Bro. began business in Rocky Mount in the year 1898, being composed of Mr. Gaston G. Levy, who has all the time been the active manager of the concern, with the late Mr. Louis C. Levy, his brother, as his silent partner. It is not too much to say that nowhere in this section of the State can be found a grocery concern that carries a more complete stock or that has a wider and more select patronage than the firm of Gaston G. Levy & Bro. Besides being always large and complete, the stock is kept always fresh, and the customers of this store always feel sure that whatever they buy here is not only of the best quality and at reasonable prices, but that the same will be accurately charged.

Mr. Gaston G. Levy, the active manager of the business, has lived in Rocky Mount since his early boyhood, and in addition to possessing splendid business ability, he has so lived and conducted himself as to gain the respect and warm esteem of the business circles of Rocky Mount and of the people generally. Mr. Levy is thirty-seven years old. The silent partner in this firm, as stated above, has been Mr. Louis C. Levy, of whom mention is made in the story elsewhere in this book of Braswell & Levy, Leaf Tobacco Dealers, in which firm he was also a partner. He died Feb. 25, 1911, as universally mourned and lamented as any citizen this city ever possessed.

Mr. Gaston G. Levy will continue to conduct the business in the future under the same firm name, and will keep it at the same high standard of success and efficiency with which it has been conducted heretofore. The store is located on Main Street between Kyser's Drug Store and the Post Office, and the 'phone numbers are 197 and 298.



MR. W. E. MCLEMORE

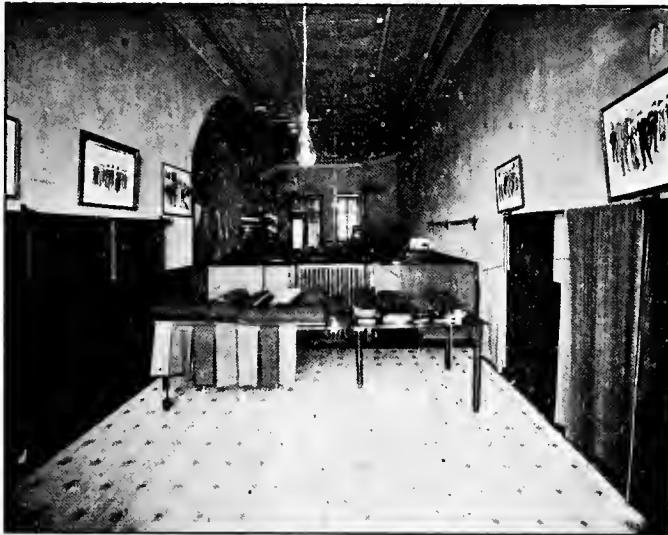
Chapman & McLemore.

Merchant Tailors.

This well known tailoring firm is composed of Mr. G. Badger Chapman and Mr. William E. McLemore. They not only do the largest tailoring business in Rocky Mount, but have probably the largest business of this kind in this section of the State. With ample capacity and a large and well situated display room at 109 W. Tarboro St., with ample and commodious tailoring shops on the second floor, they carry a beautiful and extensive line of woolens that is always up to the minute and represents all the prevailing styles and shades. The quality of their tailoring is well known in Rocky Mount and throughout a territory that reaches to a great distance in each direction from the city. They make the clothes of the people who know how clothes ought to be made, and the one rule of the shop is that every customer must be satisfied in every detail of the suit that this firm builds for him. Ladies' Tailoring is one of the firm's specialties.



MR. BADGER CHAPMAN



INTERIOR VIEW CHAPMAN & MCLEMORE

ever since. Mr. McLemore is known as an expert and conscientious craftsman who is thoroughly conversant with every process involved in the building of a fashionable and satisfactory suit of clothes. The large and select patronage he has won in Rocky Mount and in this section is ample proof of this fact.

With Mr. Chapman as partner and in the large and more commodious place of business to which they have recently moved, they have a right to expect a still larger measure of success for the firm.

Mr. Chapman is a young man of fine parts and is a native of this section. He was educated at the Warrenton High School and at one of the best business colleges in the United States, at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. This is his first venture in business of this character, as he has only recently purchased a half interest in this business. To those who know his excellent business qualities and good judgment, a successful future seems assured for him.

Mr. W. E. McLemore has been a resident of Rocky Mount for ten years, coming here in 1901. He is a native of Chesterfield County, S. C., where he was born May 11th, 1873. He was reared on the farm and developed there certain qualities of character, including energy, tenacity and industry which have stood him in good stead in his business career. Later, Mr. McLemore was connected with a laundry in Charlotte for some time, and was manager of a laundry in Augusta, Ga., for a space of one year. During the first few years of his residence in Rocky Mount, he was manager and owner of the Pearl Steam Laundry. Disposing of his interest in the laundry, seven years ago, he entered the tailoring business in which he has been engaged



Residence of MR. W. H. NEWELL

MR. H. S. POOL

Architect and Contractor

On this page is shown the home of Mr. H. S. Pool, who is both an architect and contractor, having had fourteen years' practical experience in these lines, and he thoroughly understands how to prepare plans for, or to erect, or both, any kind of building. He has made plans and contracted for some of the city's handsomest residences, as well as buildings of other character, and also this is true of other places, he having done a large amount of work in his line in nearby cities and towns.

He is prepared to submit estimates for any kind of residence, store or manufacturing plant. On another page is shown the residence of Mr. W. H. Newell, which was designed and built by Mr. Pool, and which is one of the handsomest in our city. A few of the buildings erected by Mr. Pool are the Farmer's Warehouse, remodeling of the Episcopal Church parsonage, Baptist Church at Spring Hope, the residences of Messrs. Tom and Jim Hines and T. A. Brinkley, in this city, and the residence of Mr. W. B. Bobbitt, at Enfield. Mr. Pool's strongest testimonials are from those for whom he has worked.

As reference as to Mr. Pool's responsibility he gives The First National Bank, of Rocky Mount.



RESIDENCE OF MR. H. S. POOL

MR. G. F. JONES

One of Rocky Mount's Leading and Most Popular Grocers



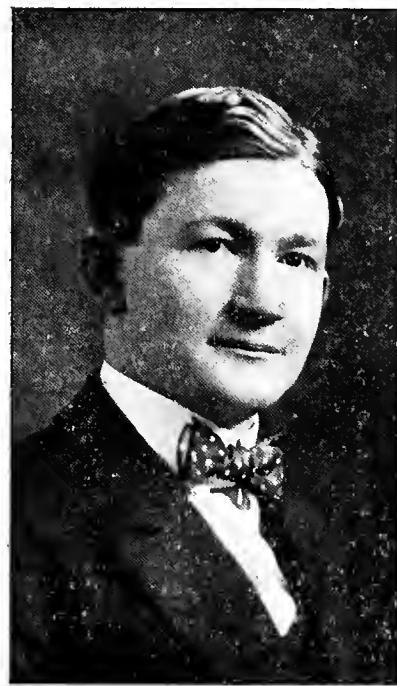
INTERIOR VIEW OF MR. G. F. JONES' STORE

There is no more complete and up-to-date grocery store in Eastern Carolina than that of Mr. G. F. Jones, situated at No. 123 South Main Street, Rocky Mount, N. C. Mr. Jones carries in stock everything that is included in the highest grade lines of the grocery business. His store was established in the year 1886, and is therefore one of the oldest grocery stores in the city. Appealing always to those who are particular as to the things they buy to eat, Mr. Jones has built up a trade that is not only large and lucrative, but is select and permanent. The cause of this can be found in the uniform courtesy and politeness shown the customers of this store through all the years of its business life by Mr. Jones and his assistants. The assistant manager of the store now is Mr. W. F. Jones, a son of Mr. G. F. Jones. Mr. W. F. Jones was born Feb. 28, 1886, and as assistant to his father, has been in the grocery business practically all his life, and has come to be one of the most popular and capable salesman in the city.

Notable points about this store are the attractive and well arranged window displays that are



MR. G. F. JONES



MR. W. F. JONES

always in evidence, the prompt filling of orders, the quick delivery, and the neat and well-kept appearance of the stock, which is always fresh and up-to-date. Mr. Jones, himself, is a native of Nash County, and was born in 1864. By his clean life and honorable business methods he has won high standing in the trade circles of the city, and what his customers think of him is shown by the fact that when once a person trades with him, that person almost invariably becomes a regular customer. One good reason for this fact is that every patron of this store feels absolutely assured that whatever they buy will come to them just as represented, the best in that particular line, and that the same will be accurately charged. This is a great consideration for those who have monthly grocery accounts, and it gives the customers a comfortable feeling to know that at the end of the month a bill will be rendered them for just exactly what they bought, at the price they bought it, no more and no less.

Some of the leading articles carried by this popular grocery supply house are Gold Medal Coffee, Libby's Canned Meats, Rob Roy, Lotus and Ballard's Obelisk Flours, Heinze's Sweet and Sour Pickles, Preserves, Ketchups and Sauces.

These are only a few things that are carried by this store, and are simply given here as an indication of the high class goods that are kept by this store in every department of the grocery business. Mr. Jones buys his fancy groceries from Austen, Nichols & Co., Francis H. Leggett, & Co., and R. C. Williams & Co., the best three wholesale grocery firms in New York. Another thing that has often been commented on is the fact that Mr. Jones has at all times sufficient help to guarantee that every order given will be filled promptly, and from stock that is always fresh and calculated to afford his customers the highest degree of satisfaction.

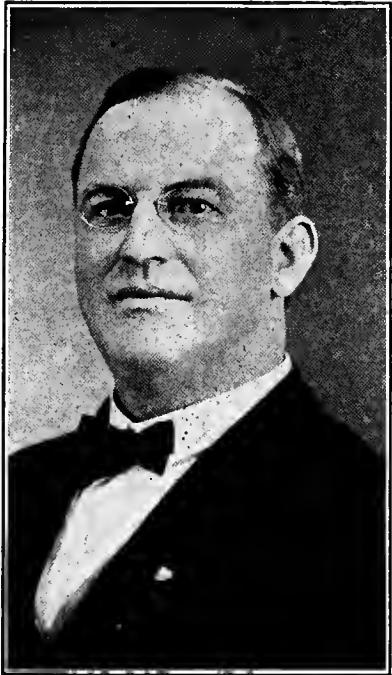
The telephone numbers of this store are 167 and 287.



Residence of MR. J. P. BUNN

PEARL STEAM LAUNDRY

Rocky Mount's Modern and Up-To-Date Laundry Plant

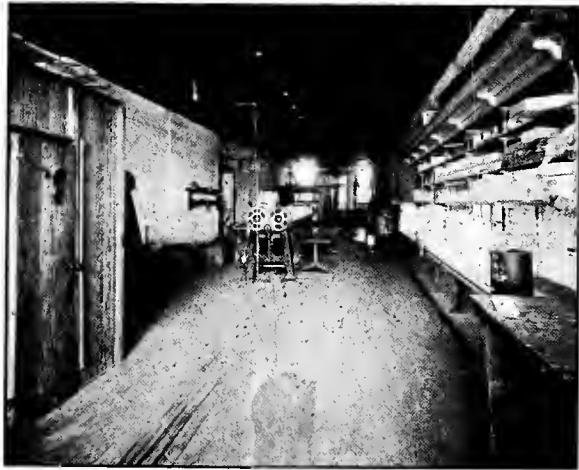


MR. J. H. LEDBETTER, Manager

No city in North Carolina can boast of a better equipped or better conducted laundry than Rocky Mount. The plant of the Pearl Steam Laundry, situated at 128-132 Sunset Avenue is thoroughly modern in every respect. No expense has been spared within the past few years in equipping it with the most modern and latest improved machinery and general laundry equipment, until now there is no work in the laundry line that cannot be done at this plant satisfactorily and with the greatest possible dispatch. In addition, this laundry makes a specialty of artistic hand-finishing, using every known device to preserve the goods from harm and to give them the finish sought for by the most particular. A competent and rapid delivery service being a necessary adjunct of every well conducted laundry, this department of the service receives special attention from the manager, Mr. Ledbetter, whose aim it is at all times to satisfy his customers to the last detail.

It should be stated here that this laundry not only does an immense local business, but has a large and constantly increasing out-of-town patronage from the small towns tributary to Rocky Mount and from some considerably sized towns some distance away.

The owners of this laundry are Ledbetter Bros., who purchased it from Mr. W. E. McLemore Sept. 1, 1908. Messrs. Ledbetter Bros. also conduct a large and modern Laundry (The Fayetteville Steam Laundry) at Fayetteville, N. C., and are both experienced and capable to a high degree, having had nearly twenty years experience in this business.



INTERIOR VIEWS PEARL STEAM LAUNDRY

The manager of the Rocky Mount plant is Mr. John H. Ledbetter, than whom there is not a more competent laundry operator and manager in North Carolina. Mr. Ledbetter came to Rocky Mount in Sept. 1908 on the purchase of the local plant by himself and his brother, to become its manager. Since taking charge, he has not only built up its patronage to a vast extent, but has seen to it that the laundry be equipped as stated above with the most modern laundry appliances and machinery until now it scarcely has a superior in this respect in the state.

Mr. Ledbetter is a native of Fayetteville. He has had as stated above nearly twenty years experience in the laundry business. Prior to engaging in this business, he was for eight years connected with the A. C. L. R.R. Co., and the old Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley R. R. as engineer and in other capacities. For years, Mr. Ledbetter was prominent in North Carolina military affairs, being Sergeant in the Second North Carolina Infantry during the Spanish-American War. He first joined the Fayetteville military company as private in 1890, and by close application and a military turn, rose rapidly. On Aug. 23rd, 1899, he was commissioned by Governor Russell, Captain of the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry. July 29th, 1903, Governor Aycock commissioned Capt. Ledbetter Captain and Quartermaster of the First N. C. Infantry of the National Guard, and Jan. 7th, 1904, Capt. Ledbetter received a commission from the same source as Captain and Inspector of Small Arms Practice and Ordnance, a very responsible position in the First N. C. Infantry of the National Guard, which position he held for five years. As a military officer, Capt. Ledbetter was ever faithful and efficient making an excellent record.

The Assistant Manager of the Pearl Steam Laundry is Mr. John E. Atkinson, a very capable laundry operator, who is also a native of Fayetteville.

THE KYSER DRUG COMPANY

One of the Best Appointed and Most Widely Patronized Drug Stores in This Section of the State

This well known drug store is one of the largest and is, perhaps, the best located drug store in Rocky Mount, "Kysers Corner" being in the heart of the business and retail district of the city. For elegance in its appointments and the thorough competence of its employees, together with the great care that is always exercised in the compounding of prescriptions, this store is scarcely excelled anywhere. The proprietor and moving spirit of this business is Mr. Paul B. Kyser, one of the most expert and best known pharmacists in the State. Two other registered pharmacists are also interested in the company. Mr. Howell Kyser, son of Mr. P. B. Kyser, is actively engaged in the business, and Mrs. P. B. Kyser, who was the first lady pharmacist to be registered by the State of North Carolina.

Mr. P. B. Kyser came to Rocky Mount and established this business nearly twenty years ago, in 1892, and has, by uniform courtesy, unquestioned fair dealing and fine business judgment, built it up to its present large proportions and high standing in the drug circles of Eastern Carolina. This store carries, in addition to an extensive and complete line of drugs, a full line of toilet articles, candies and a thousand and one little



Interior View of Kysers Drug Store

things that go to make up a complete and modern drug store, and has, besides, one of the largest soda fountain trades in this city. Mr. P. B. Kyser is a native of Lexington, S. C., and was born in the year 1856. He has become known in Rocky Mount as a safe business man, one of the best drug men in the business, and a useful citizen, respected and esteemed by a wide circle of friends. He and Mrs. Kyser, who is a social favorite, have a very handsome and commodious residence on Sunset Avenue, in one of the choicest residential sections of the city.

Mr. Vernon Kyser, who has charge of the soda fountain, is one of the most popular young men in the city, and his uniform politeness and courtesy are largely responsible for the store's big fountain trade. No young man in Rocky Mount has a brighter future in the drug business.



Residence of MR. P. B. KYSER



Residence of MR. E. H. CREWS

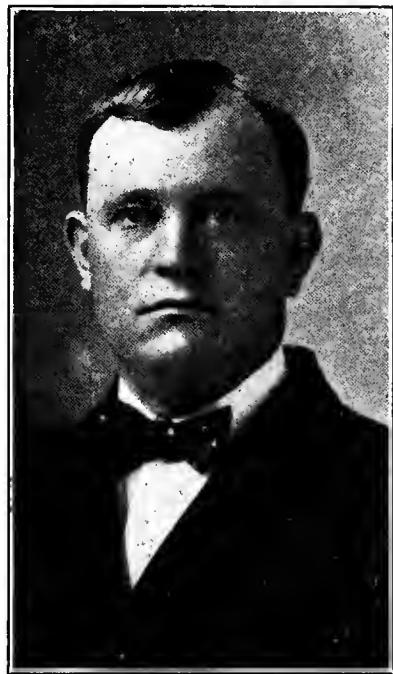
MR. HAMNER W. WINSTEAD.

A Leading Wood And Coal Dealer.

Prior to January, 1911, Rocky Mount was for a long time without competition in the coal business, one concern handling all the trade. That month saw the establishment of the wood and coal concern owned by Mr. Hamner W. Winstead, the subject of this sketch. Mr. Winstead has a large wood and coal yard on the West side of the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, near the tobacco warehouses. Here he keeps a large supply of both wood and coal for the city trade. He will make a specialty of putting in supplies of wood and coal for the citizens of this city during the summer months, when both articles can be furnished them much cheaper than during the fall and winter. Mr. Winstead's phone number is 183, and a call to that number will bring a quick response to whatever the desire of the customer may be, whether coal or wood, either pine or oak, dry or green. In the wood business, Mr. Winstead has the advantage of having on his mother's farm, a few miles from the city, an immense supply of wood ready for the market, that will last for some time to come. On this account, he is in a position to give his customers the advantage of the best prices to be had.

Mr. Hamner Williams Winstead is a native son of Nash County, and a descendant of one of its oldest and most prominent families. Mr. Winstead's father was Mr. William Robert Winstead of Nash, and his grandfather was David Williams Winstead, during his day one of the largest slave owners, most prominent planters and most influential citizens of the County. He was for many years a county official in various capacities.

Mr. Hamner W. Winstead was born on the Winstead Plantation, three miles west of Rocky Mount, February 17, 1883. He was educated in the schools of Nash County, and at the Southern Industrial College at Camp Hill, Ala. Returning from college, he took charge of his mother's farm, his father having died some years before, and managed it for her until his coming to Rocky Mount in January, 1911, as stated in the foregoing. Mr. Winstead, besides being a business man of fine standing and excellent ability, is one of the most popular of the younger men of the city, possessing many engaging traits of character that have won for him a large circle of friends. These facts coupled with his systematic devotion to business and his honorable and upright life, are an assurance of his large success henceforth.



MR. HAMNER W. WINSTEAD

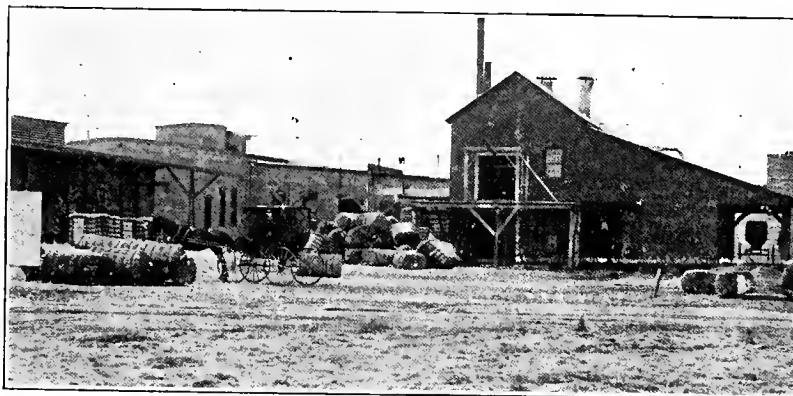


WOOD YARD OF MR. HAMNER W. WINSTEAD

THE PLANTERS COTTON SEED OIL CO.

A Home Enterprise, Managed By Home People, That Has Been And Is
Eminently Successful.

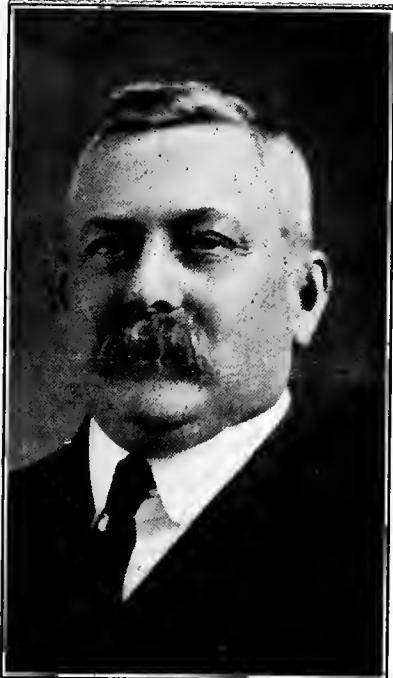
The Planters Cotton Seed Oil Company is as essentially a Rocky Mount home industry as any concern in the city, all the stockholders and managers being citizens of this community, the most progressive of our farmers and business men. This plant was organized in 1904, and in the face of the strongest competition has made good in a large sense, and besides being profitable to the stockholders, is of real and substantial value to the city, and com-



PLANTERS COTTON SEED OIL COMPANY'S FACTORY

munity, creating as it has, a strong market for the products it buys. The manufacturing plant is well-located on the Edgecombe side of Rocky Mount, and is thoroughly equipped with the most improved and up to date machinery. Using the cotton seed of the farmers, it manufactures besides the oil, a high grade meal that has proven most satisfactory for stockfeeding purposes, and also a grade of fertilizer, than which there is no better on the market. The fertilizer manufactory is conducted in connection with the oil mill, and the high-class fertilizer they are turning out, peculiarly adapted as it is to the needs of our lands, is becoming more and more popular as our farmers become more familiar with it.

The President and General Manager of this company is Hon. E. L. Daughridge, one of Rocky Mount's most prominent and most popular citizens. Mr. Daughridge comes of a distinguished Edgecombe county family, has represented Edgecombe twice in the legislature with pronounced ability, and is one of the city's safest and most level-headed business men.



MR. J. C. WYNNE

Secretary and Manager of Rocky Mount Sash & Blind Company and One of the City's Ablest Business Men

As a continuation of the story begun on page 78, of the Rocky Mount Sash & Blind Company, one of Rocky Mount's most important manufacturing institutions, it is desirable to set forth something of the company's good fortune in the selection of the man whose strong hand is directing it in the distinctly successful path it is now travelling. The company secured Mr. J. C. Wynne, the Secretary and Manager, something over two years ago, offering him sufficient inducement to give up his large private interests and devote his splendid ability and sound judgment to the management of this concern. Results have shown that this was an exceedingly wise step, for Mr. Wynne's natural capacity for controlling men, and his thorough knowledge of every detail of the business, have resulted in a large increase in business done and increased profits in every department.

Mr. Wynne is a native of Pitt county, born in 1860. Prior to his purchase of stock in this business, and his acceptance of the position of Secretary and Manager, he was engaged practically all his life, and very successfully, in the contracting and real estate businesses, his fine judgment, backed up with his ability to put through big deals, resulting in his accumulating a very comfortable share of this world's goods. Today he is a large holder of valuable Rocky Mount real estate, in addition to his stock in this company and his interest in other things. He has been a resident of Rocky Mount since May, 1895, and has been thoroughly identified and potent in all the movements that have made it the city it is today. Besides commanding the implicit confidence of the business circles of the city in his personal integrity and high sense of honor, Mr. Wynne has well earned the place he now occupies in the public esteem as one of the wisest and most forceful business and industrial captains in this section of the State.

MR. J. C. WYNNE, Manager

integrity and high sense of honor, Mr. Wynne has well earned the place he now occupies in the public esteem as one of the wisest and most forceful business and industrial captains in this section of the State.

PARKER'S JEWELRY STORE.

The Leading Establishment Of Its Kind In This Part Of The State. One Of The Show Places Of Rocky Mount.
The Store That Employs Only Graduate Experts In Each Department.



INTERIOR VIEW OF MR. GEO. L. PARKER'S JEWELRY STORE

For nearly a quarter of a century, a large proportion of the people of Rocky Mount and a wide surrounding territory, have been buying their jewelry, cut glass, watches, etc. at Parker's Jewelry Store. This does not mean however that there is anything old (except the name) or antiquated about this store. On the contrary, this is one of the concerns that have caught the spirit of progress and modern hustle at every step, going continually in advance of the growth of the city, and anticipating the needs of the business. At this time, this store would be credit to a city of fifty thousand people, both in the size and handsome equipment and furnishings, and in the quality and completeness of all the different lines which are to be found in the most modern and up to date stores in the larger cities, and which this store carries at all times. Here are represented a number of the leading jewelry and cut glass lines of the country, and the policy pursued of never carrying anything but the best, has been found to be abundantly justified in the winning of the entire confidence of the people, and consequently, their patronage.

Recently, this store moved into the large and commodious building at 121 Main Street, installing complete new fixtures that are not excelled by any jewelry store in the state. The furnishings are all in plate glass, the most expensive mirrors and mahogany, which in truth render this store, as stated in the headlines, one of the show places of Rocky Mount.

The proprietor of this store is Mr. George L. Parker, one of the most prominent business men and church men in the city, and one of the best-equipped and most competent jewelers in the business. Mr. Parker is the pioneer jeweler of Rocky Mount, coming here as he did over twenty years ago when Rocky Mount was yet a village and its present size, wealth and prosperity were not even dreamed of by any except a few. Mr. Parker immediately impressed the people as being the sort of progressive citizen, desirable to have, and his business prospered from the beginning. The people came to know that his word when given could be trusted, and it has always been his scrupulous care that not a single article should go out from his store, that did not measure up in the fullest respect to what he represented it to be. There could be but one result to a business policy of this kind, and today, there is not a person in Rocky Mount, but would be willing to buy, with full confidence, on Mr. Parker's word. The importance of this in the jewelry business will be readily recognized. As a rule, the great majority of people who buy jewelry, must depend upon the good faith and reputation of their dealer as to its quality, for the average customer knows about as little about judging jewelry as anything that could be imagined. On account of this fact, and the fact that in all the years of his business Mr. Parker has never allowed an article to be misrepresented in even the slightest degree, the wide popularity of his store among the people of Rocky Mount and this section is not to be wondered at. About sixteen years ago, Mr. Parker was appointed Watch Inspector for the A. C. L. R. R. Co., which position he still holds.

As was stated in the beginning, Mr. Parker is not only the leading jeweler, but is one of the most capable business men and useful citizens of the city. He is especially active in church work, being one of the most prominent members of the First Baptist Church, and for a long time, teacher of the Baraca Class of the First Baptist Sunday School. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Rocky Mount Graded Schools, and a strong advocate of everything that tends to advancing their interests. He is President and a large stockholder in The Rocky Mount Publishing Co., Printers, and Publishers of The Daily Record, and is an active and prominent member of the Masonic and Pythian fraternities.

Mr. Parker was married in 1889 to Miss Laura Herbert, of Kinston. They have five children, George L. Jr., Walter Herbert, Irene, Laura Alice and Jesse Van.

One of the rules that have always been in force at Parker's Jewelry Store, that have tended to confirm the con-

fidence of the people and to satisfy the customers in every particular, is that none but expert and competent employees shall be connected with the business. For instance, at this time, as heretofore, every employee is a graduate in his line of one of the most famous jewelry and watchmaking schools in the country. This policy is an absolute guarantee that the quality of work turned out in the watchmaking, engraving and repair departments is only of the best.

Mr. James Madison Fox, who has been with Mr. Parker nearly seven years, is a graduate of Bowman's Technical School of Lancaster Pa., and is one of the most expert craftsman in the State. Mr. Fox is a native of Philadelphia, Pa., and was born Oct. 19, 1876, coming to Rocky Mount to accept his present position in 1904. Mr. Fox was married in 1906 to Miss Mary Ella Kelly, of Goldsboro, N. C.

Mr. George Lee Parker, Jr., who has charge of the engraving department, is admitted to be one of the most expert engravers in this part of the state, turning out work that is a thing of beauty and of immense satisfaction to the patrons of the store. Mr. Parker is a son of Mr. George L. Parker, the proprietor of the store, and was born in Rocky Mount July 16, 1890. He was educated in the schools of Rocky Mount, and is a graduate of the Lancaster (Pa.) Bowman's Technical School of watchmaking and engraving. Besides being thoroughly conversant with the best methods of his business he is one of the most popular and useful young men in Rocky Mount. He is quiet and unassuming, and attends strictly to business and his other duties. His window dressing at the store has been widely commented on for artistic taste and beauty of arrangement. He makes it a point to see that the show windows of the store shall always be such as to arrest attention, and fitly represent the high rank of the store. Mr. Parker is a faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Rocky Mount, and is Secretary of its Sunday School.

Mr. Ellis Spencer Hamrick, the head watchmaker at this store, is also a graduate of the famous school at Lancaster, Pa., and is capably and satisfactorily filling the position he occupies with this well-known establishment. Mr. Hamrick is a native of Braxton County, W. Va. and was born July 19, 1889. He came to Rocky Mount to accept the position with Mr. Parker Nov. 28, 1910.

MR. M. C. BRASWELL.

Proprietor of Largest Supply Business in State. Farms on Immense Scale.
Interested in Many Enterprises.



MR. M. C. BRASWELL

The general supply business conducted by Mr. M. C. Braswell at Battleboro is one of the largest, if not the largest, in volume of business transacted, in Carolina. The business was until a few years ago conducted under the firm name of T. P. Braswell & Son, being composed of two partners, the late loved and lamented father of the present proprietor being the senior member. However, at that time Mr. M. C. Braswell was the active manager of the business. At the death of the senior member, the business passed under the sole proprietorship of the latter and he has continued to conduct it in the same capable manner. The volume of business done annually will amount to a quarter million dollars. As a supply house, it ranks second to none in Eastern North Carolina, and is one of the largest retail dealers in fertilizers in the State, selling more than 3500 tons annually.

No man in this section of the State is held in higher esteem than Mr. M. C. Braswell. He has not made his worldly goods by grinding down his fellow man, but by dint of hard, persistent work, combined with a mind that is acutely fitted to handle business problems. In fact, Mr. Braswell has been successful in practically all that he has undertaken, and has not only accumulated wealth, but his lines of endeavor have always been broad gauged, and he has been ready and willing to join in any enterprise that would help build larger or better the community in which he has lived. Though living in Battleboro eight miles from Rocky Mount, he owns considerable property in the latter city, is a direc-

tor in a large number of business institutions in this city and a stockholder in practically every corporation gotten up for the advancement of the city. Mr. Braswell is also a large planter. He is one of the largest land owners in Nash and Edgecombe counties and plants cotton, tobacco and peanuts on a large scale.

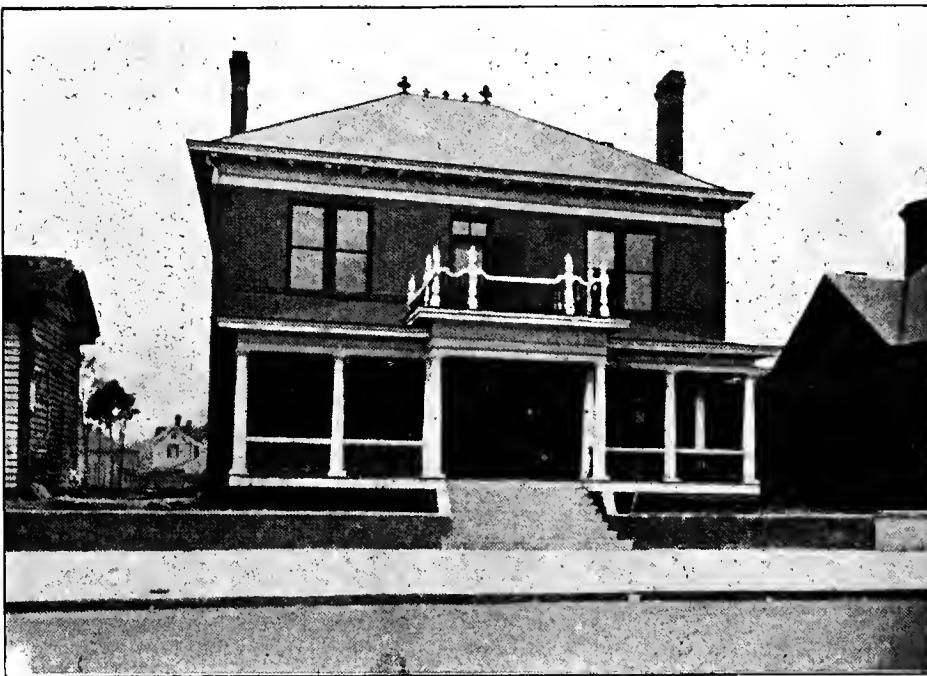
Mr. Braswell has two brothers living in Rocky Mount, Mr. J. C. Braswell, president of The Planters Bank and Dr. M. R. Braswell, both of whom have been mentioned in several places in this book, as they also have been identified in a very large measure with the wonderful development and growth of Rocky Mount. In fact, the three brothers have been of incalculable benefit to this section of the State. They have what is seldom found combined, the means, the ability and the inclination for progress and by bringing these combined elements into operation it can be said without question that they have exerted by far the largest influence in the growth of Rocky Mount of any one family.

Mr. M. C. Braswell was married in 1894 to Miss Alice Bryant, a charming and cultured woman, and a member of one of the most highly respected families in the county. They live in truly a palatial home, a picture of which is shown in these pages. They have 4 children.



RESIDENCE OF MR. M. C. BRASWELL—at Battleboro

THE SAGAMORE CLUB



This institution is the most popular social organization in the city: It has handsome club rooms on Main Street, and its membership is composed of our leading citizens. It is purely a social club for business men, and is conducted on a high plane—no drinking or gambling at all being permitted. It has been in existence nine years, is on a firm foundation, and is a credit to the city.



MR. D. J. ROSE.
are not excelled anywhere for the

MR. D. J. ROSE

One of North Carolina's Largest and Best-Known Contractors. Business Extends From Delaware to Florida. Possesses Invaluable Reputation for Reliability and Efficiency

In all the States bordering on the South Atlantic Coast, in which he operates, it would be impossible to find a contractor with a better or safer reputation for dependability, thorough efficiency and fidelity than Mr. D. J. Rose, of Rocky Mount. This reputation is well earned, too, and has been built up by years of thorough application, hard and conscientious work, and the utmost care of the interests of those who have employed him. The work Mr. Rose has done has been on a large scale, many contracts running into the hundreds of thousands of dollars before completion. It's true, also, that Mr. Rose has done a multitude of the less costly but hardly less important work, such as the building of churches and residences, many of the handsomest in the Southeastern States having been built under his direction. At present he is building in one of the North Carolina cities, a residence for a prominent railroad official, the cost of which will run to approximately \$25,000.00. Here in Rocky Mount there stand as monuments to his masterful skill as a builder and contractor, among others, the following, which purpose for which they were built, to-wit: The Hotel Ricks, the new Shore

Building, the Masonic Temple, The Bank of Rocky Mount, the Five Points Drug Store, store of W. D. & C. A. Cochran, the new Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, parts of The Rocky Mount Mills, The Planters Cotton Seed Oil Company's factory, the Railroad Y. M. C. A., Rocky Mount's New Passenger Station, and various others.

But by far the most of Mr. Rose's work has been done on the larger constructing plane. For several years he has been employed in a large number of important contracts for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company and other mammoth industrial concerns in the South and elsewhere. The great Railroad Shops, at South Rocky Mount, the second largest in the South, together with the storage and office buildings, etc., (costing upwards of \$150,000.00), were all constructed by Mr. Rose with the exception of two of the first buildings. Among some of his larger contracts might be mentioned the great Morris Fertilizer Factory, which cost approximately \$200,000, which Mr. Rose built in Atlanta for the Morris Packing Company, of Chicago; all the buildings in connection with the mines of the Florida Phosphate Mining Co., at Bartow, Florida, which cost upwards of \$300,000.00; the big factory of the Dutton Phosphate Co., at Jacksonville, Florida; factories for the great Southern fertilizer company, the F. S. Royster Guano Co., of Norfolk, which factories cost something like \$750,000.00, and which Mr. Rose built for this great concern at Portsmouth, Va., Tarboro, N. C., Spartanburg, S. C., Columbus, Ga., Macon, Ga., Montgomery, Ala., and Baltimore, Md.. the factory at Baltimore being the largest in the South, and alone cost, complete, about \$400,000.00; and scores of others of equal magnitude all over the Southeastern States.

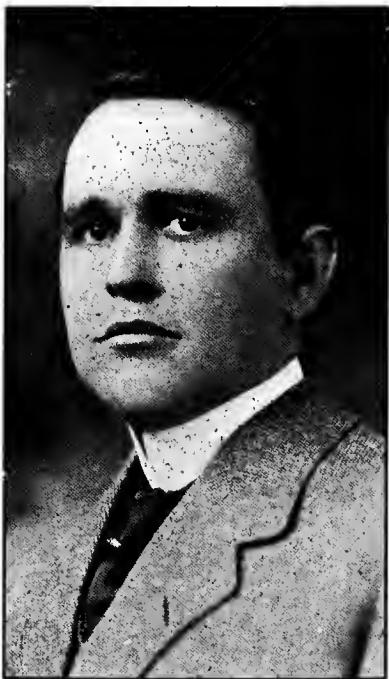
Mr. Rose is widely known as not only a man who completes his contracts, large or small, to the very letter, but a big, broad man, who is not satisfied until his patrons have received absolute satisfaction to the last detail. The regard in which he is held by a number of the largest corporations in the South, and indeed all over the country, who award him contracts year after year, is ample proof that he not only knows his business, and has the necessary financial and industrial generalship to carry out satisfactorily the largest contracts, but is the sort of man who carries his conscience into his business, and who makes every yard of his work, honest work, good for not only the present but for the future. It has become so that the only bond required of Mr. Rose is the reputation he has won by his years of hard work and uniformly honest and honorable business.

Here in Rocky Mount no citizen is more highly respected or influential. Mr. Rose's life since he came to what was then the village of Rocky Mount, in 1892, has been such as to win for him not only the high respect but the warm regard of all his fellow-citizens. For several terms he served as a member of the Board of Aldermen, discharging his duties in that responsible position with the utmost fidelity and usefulness to the city. He is at present a Director in the Bank of Rocky Mount, President of the Rocky Mount Brick Co., and is interested in other concerns of worth and importance.

Mr. Rose is a native of Johnston County, this State, and was born Nov. 27th, 1861. His parents moved to Wayne County when he was seven years of age, and there he was reared on the farm. In 1888, after having received a good academical education, Mr. Rose embarked in the business of a carpenter and builder on a small scale, gradually building and branching out, and entering the contracting field on his removal to Rocky Mount in 1892. At different times Mr. Rose has had associated with him in his contracting business Messrs. W. J. Stephenson and S. S. Toler. At present he is the sole member of his firm.

It is well known, by those familiar with the subject, that the business of successful contracting and building is one that requires a high order of business ability and a sound, level judgment to avoid the pitfalls that encompass it. It is no small tribute to Mr. Rose's capacity that he has not only conducted his business always with consistent good faith toward all concerned, but that he has been largely successful financially, and is now one of the strong men of the city, speaking in a financial sense. He has been equal to every emergency that has arisen in his wide-spread field of large and responsible work, and the impression one gains of him at first, as being a man of force and of calm and safe judgment, is one that is amply corroborated by his record. His offices in this city are located on Rose Street, (which street was named for him), and he has a beautiful and commodious residence on Lexington Street.

Mr. Rose has been twice married, the first time to Miss Anna Woodall, of Smithfield, in 1892, and the second time to Miss Vera Benton, also of Smithfield, in 1900.



MR. FRANK A. HAMPTON.

MR. FRANK A. HAMPTON

Attorney At Law, One of The Editors of This Work, and First Vice-President of The Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce

(By J. H. HERBERT)

Mr. Frank Armfield Hampton, one of the prominent younger members of the Rocky Mount Bar, was born March 9, 1884, at Hamptonville, Yadkin County, N. C., which has been the home of his ancestors for nearly a century and a half. His great-grandfather, Henry Hampton, a brother of the first General Wade Hampton, founded the town of Hamptonville long before the Revolutionary War, and at that time owned a vast area of the country around.

Mr. Frank A. Hampton is the second son, and the eldest one living, of Col. John A. Hampton, a gallant Confederate commander, who has been for forty years a leader of the Bar and of Democracy and decency in the rock-ribbed Republican county of Yadkin, being the only straight Democrat who has carried that county on a legislative ticket since the Civil War. Mr. Hampton's grandfather, on his mother's side, was the celebrated Baptist pioneer in Western North Carolina, Rev. William Green Brown, and three of his uncles were distinguished Baptist ministers, one of them being Rev. Dr. S. M. Brown, editor and founder of the Baptist organ of Missouri and Kansas, (*The Word and Way*), and pastor of the Michigan Avenue Baptist Church of Kansas City.

Mr. Frank A. Hampton was educated in the public schools of Yadkin county, and at Yadkinville Normal School, the principal of which is the well-known and

beloved Zeno H. Dixon, brother of Senator Dixon, of Montana. Mr. Hampton taught in the public schools of his county at different times for four years, beginning at sixteen years of age. In April, 1903, he went to Kansas City, Mo., remaining there some time in newspaper work, holding a position on the staff of the *Kansas City World*, (now the *Kansas City Post*), and reading law at odd times. Returning to North Carolina, he accepted a position on the editorial staff of *The Charlotte Daily News*. He read law under the late Chief Justice, David M. Furches, and Geo. B. Nicholson, Esq., at Statesville, N. C., reviewing the course in 1909 under Thaddeus A. Adams, Esq., at Charlotte. He stood the examination before the Supreme Court of North Carolina and was admitted to the Bar in August, 1909, and in October following, came to Rocky Mount to permanently locate for the practice of his profession.

Since his early boyhood, Mr. Hampton has been an active worker for the Democratic party, holding by inheritance and by deep conviction, a strong faith in the efficacy of Democratic principles for all the ills and problems of government. At the age of sixteen he was one of the active organizers of White Supremacy Clubs in Yadkin County, being Secretary of two of them, and being an active participant in the pivotal campaign of 1900, in which the people of the west rose in their might and assisted the east in ratifying the Constitutional Amendment, eliminating ignorant negro suffrage.

Mr. Hampton's life since coming to Rocky Mount has been one of clean and energetic effort. As a lawyer, he is building up a practice that is very promising, due to his ability, close application, untiring industry and fidelity to the interests of his clients. Possessing by inheritance a great love and respect for the great principles and high traditions of his profession, he ever proceeds on the correct idea that a member of the legal profession is, *ex officio*, a public servant, carrying grave responsibilities under our scheme of government and under the system of Jurisprudence that has been handed down to us by our English forefathers.

In addition to his professional work, to which he is devoted, Mr. Hampton is the Editor of *The Twin County Echo*, one of the leading weekly newspapers in this part of the State, and is First Vice-President and a member of the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce, of which organization, in its present form, he was one of the promoters and charter members.

Mr. Hampton was married December 23rd, 1906, to Miss Luola Moore, of Fayetteville, N. C., a member of one of the oldest and most prominent families of that city, who has been behind her, generations of refinement and culture. From this marriage have been born two children, both girls, now one and three years old respectively.

Mr. Hampton is a member of the First Baptist Church of this city, while Mrs. Hampton is a member of the First Presbyterian.

THIS BOOK

Was Printed in Its Entirety, Including The Cover,

—IN—

THE DAILY RECORD

Job Printing Office

CITIZENS BUILDING & LOAN ASSOCIATION.

An Institution That Is Performing A Notable Work In The Building Of The City. It's Successful History.

In the modern industrial life and growth of a city, there is probably no agency that performs a greater work than the well-conducted building and loan associations, cultivating as they do, habits of saving among the people, and giving people of small incomes an opportunity to own their own homes and become independent. They also furnish one of the best means for the accumulation and investment of savings.

The Citizens Building & Loan Association of Rocky Mount, furnishes an excellent example of institutions of this character. It is only four years old, and therefore has not had opportunity to mature shares as yet, but has already accomplished a vast deal towards creating home-owners out of folks who ordinarily would find it very difficult to ever accumulate sufficient to live under their "own vine and fig tree". Approximately 1700 shares of stock are now in force, which is a very satisfactory record indeed for the first four years of growth, and as the association is becoming more and more popular as the opportunity it furnishes is becoming better understood, the number of shares is rapidly increasing. The association has already built about thirty homes and has assisted in the building of quite a number of others. This work cannot be too highly commended, for a city of home-owners is the ideal state to which every city aspires.

The future of The Citizens Building & Loan Association, and the largest possible benefits for its shareholders, are absolutely guaranteed by the personnel of the officials and the board of directors. One need only glance at the list of officers and directors to recognize that it is composed of men who, largely successful in their own private businesses, and leaders in every sphere of the growth of the city, are men in whose keeping any reasonable business or institution that could be conceived, would be bound to prosper. The officers and directors, all of whom serve entirely without pay (with the exception of the Secretary & Treasurer, who receives only a nominal salary covering his actual expenses) are as follows:

President, J. C. Braswell (President The Planters Bank.) Vice-President G. G. Levy (Head of G. G. Levy & Co.) Secretary & Treasurer, W. S. Wilkinson (of Wilkinson Bulluck & Co.) Attorneys, J. P. Bunn and J. B.

Ramsey (President First National Bank.) Directors: G. G. Levy, T. C. Gorham, Dr. M. R. Braswell, R. S. Gorham, E. J. Gordon, Geo. S. Edwards, C. L. Gay, T. L. Worsley, W. A. Bulluck, I. W. Rose, J. C. Braswell.

This association was organized in May 1907. It has never lost a penny, and under its system of administration, cannot lose a penny in the very nature of the case. Before any loan is made, as is well known, the proposed loan is subjected to the closest scrutiny by the directors, is passed upon by the officers and attorneys, and the chain of title traced back to a point that absolutely guarantees it to be without a flaw. No admission fee is charged the shareholders, and while every safeguard is thrown around their investment, every effort is also exerted to keep every dollar at work and earn for them the highest possible returns. The association extends a warm invitation to every citizen within its territory to become a shareholder, as it is entirely a mutual concern with no private profit, the shareholders getting every cent of the profits above the necessary expenses which are reduced to a minimum in every respect. The association operates only within Rocky Mount and the Rocky Mount Road District, thus enabling the directors to have every investment under their direct inspection and supervision at all times.

MR. H. DEMPT.

Rocky Mount's Artistic And Modern Photographer.



MR. H. DEMPT

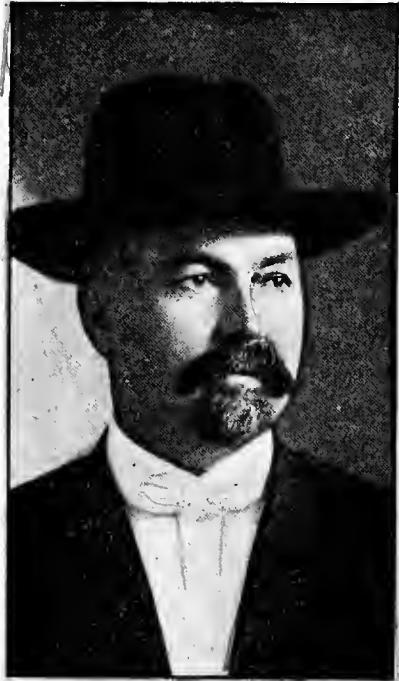
The pictures in this book were made by Mr. Harry Dempst, one of the best and most up-to-date photographers in the state. Mr. Dempst is the proprietor and manager of "The Studio", on Main Street, which has become noted in Eastern North Carolina for work that represents the best and most skillful in modern photography. Besides his photographic work, Mr. Dempst has recently installed a splendidly equipped department for kodak finishing for his city and out-of-town kodak patronage, and with his modern and complete equipment is enabled to turn out this class of work within the shortest possible time. He also has a department for enlarging pictures, and does high-class portrait work in water-color, sepia, crayon and pastel. One of his specialties is the better class of commercial work, such as photographing buildings, interiors, groups and the like. Mr. Dempst's portrait work is the last word in art and perfect likeness making. His studio is equipped with all the modern and expensive adjuncts necessary for the highest class of work, and his experience and excellent training admirably fit him for his duties. He is constantly adding new appliances and equipment, and striving to keep thoroughly abreast with the most modern ideas and knowledge in the art of photography.

Mr. Dempst was born in Philadelphia, Nov. 17, 1880, and studied photography and portrait-making under the celebrated Louis Blau of that city, and also under Chilman, the great artist of "The City of Brotherly Love." For several years prior to his coming to Rocky Mount, he was engaged in work in the studio of the famous Blau, rising before his departure to the highest position there. He came

to Rocky Mount in Sept. 1906, having definitely decided to make Rocky Mount his permanent home. His success here in his chosen life-work has been very gratifying, not only to himself but to a wide circle of friends he has won by his blameless and useful life since coming to the city.

Mr. Dempf is an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Rocky Mount, and is Secretary & Treasurer of the Presbyterian Sunday School.

His assistant in "The Studio," is Miss Elizabeth Kaylor, a gifted and popular young lady, who has within the few years she has been engaged in the work, become herself very proficient in the photographic art. Miss Kaylor is a native of Morganton N. C.



MR. CHARLES C. COOPER

President and General Manager of the C. C. Cooper Tobacco Co., Operators of the Old Reliable Cooper's Warehouse, and a Pioneer of the Rocky Mount Tobacco Market. A Man of Forceful Personality and High Character

It is a pleasant task that the writer has before him in giving a description of a tobacco warehouse business that lacks only a few years of being as old as the Rocky Mount Tobacco Market itself, for truly he believes that no words of praise of the business itself, or of the personality behind it, can be too fulsome. The business referred to is the C. C. Cooper Tobacco Company, and the personality is Mr. C. C. Cooper, the President and founder of the concern.

Mr. Cooper is a pioneer of the local market, having become a tobacconist in 1890, the first year of the market. Having gained a thorough knowledge of the warehouse business he opened a warehouse of his own in the year 1894, the warehouse being the one of which he is at present the head, and of which he has been the head since he first began to conduct a warehouse business. The first year he operated a warehouse he sold more pounds of tobacco than any other warehouseman, and he has done so every year since, including last year. He has

MR. C. C. COOPER

MR. C. C. COOPER

always claimed that he not only led the market in number of pounds sold, but that tobacco has sold for more money on his floor than on any other. It would seem that these statements should be related, that there would have to be some good reason why he sold more tobacco than any of his competitors, and it would seem a very reasonable cause would be that he led in prices as well as pounds. Mr. Cooper is distinctly a Nash County product, not only claiming Nash County as his native heath, but tracing his ancestors for several generations back to Nash County soil. He was born at the old Cooper homestead in Griffin's Township, the home being more than two hundred years old, put together with wooden pegs, nails not having then been invented. Mr. Cooper's father was honored by Nash County as are few citizens in any county. He was Sheriff for about twenty years, and when he became too old to fulfill the exacting duties of that office he was further honored by being elected Treasurer, which office he filled for several years. Mr. C. C. Cooper came of good stock, and anyone who comes in contact with his strong personality recognizes this fact without having to be so informed. He is a strong man physically and mentally. His vision of life is broad. He not only gives evidence of loving to live an active, virile life himself, but he has proven that he likes to see those around him prosper and enjoy living, by having given untold hundreds assistance at times when they most needed encouragement, not only by words but material help. He has thus made strong friends who have stuck to him in his business for years, and will continue to do so as long as Charlie Cooper remains in the warehouse business, for the average man values a true friend, and not one can accuse Charlie Cooper of not sticking loyally to his friends.

One strong evidence, of Mr. Cooper's fairness and kind treatment to his fellow man is proven by the way his employes stick to him. There is strong testimony of his sense of fairness in the fact that every one of his present clerical and managerial force have been with him continually ever since they first accepted positions with him.

This force consists of Mr. O. B. Harris, Bookkeeper, who is one of the best in the business and whose pleasure it is to see that every sale and account is accurately recorded; Mr. Geo. W. Smithson, Jr., Floor Manager, who is an ideal and competent man for that responsible position; Mr. J. Dorsey Nelms, Auctioneer, who can cry tobacco to the top notch, and Mr. L. C. Morris, an able tobacconist who is Assistant Manager of the company. It is safe to say that no man in the tobacco business in Eastern Carolina has more competent or more loyal assistants than has Mr. Cooper in the above named force.

All in all, the Cooper Warehouse scintillates the personality of the founder of the business, who will not have an incompetent employee or one who will not treat each and every customer with every courtesy and consideration. Mr. Cooper recognizes that it takes a competent supervision of sales to see that every customer's tobacco brings the

very top market price at the time the tobacco is sold and also that men who have sense to do this, have sense enough to know how to make it pleasant for the customers.

Mr. Charles C. Cooper was born, as stated in the foregoing near Hilliardston on the old Cooper homestead, and the date of his birth was Feb. 9, 1866. His mother was a Battle of the family of that name prominent in Nash county for a hundred and fifty years and more. Mr. Cooper's maternal great-great-grandfather was Mr. Lawrence Battle who came to Nash county direct from England, and settled on Swift Creek prior to 1750, where the old home-stead now stands. The name Lawrence is a marked family name, Mr. C. C. Cooper's uncle, Mr. Lawrence Battle who lives near Gold Rock, now bearing it. Mr. Cooper's early boyhood was spent on his father's farm (which has been in the family for over a hundred and fifty years and which is now owned by Mr. Cooper's brother) and at the age of twenty, he went to Henderson, N. C. where he worked in the tobacco warehouse business two years with Mr. D. Y. Cooper, there gaining his first experience in the business in which he has since become so powerful and influential. He came to Rocky Mount in 1890, serving first as bookkeeper, and then successively in almost every position in the warehouse business, gaining experience which has been invaluable to him in his subsequent career.

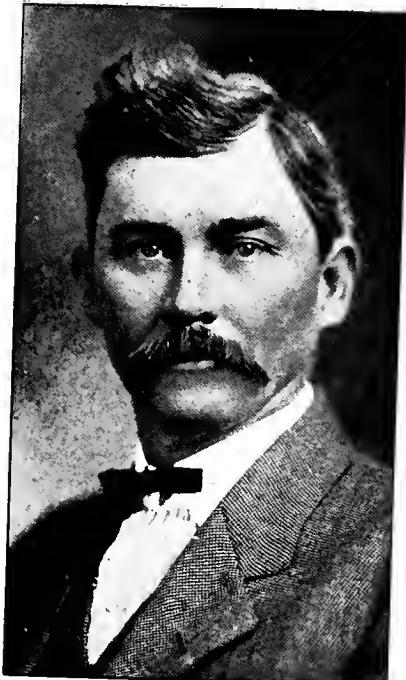


WAREHOUSE OF C. C. COOPER TOBACCO COMPANY

W. T. ROSE & SON.

Rocky Mount's Leading Manufacturers of Buggies, Carriages, Wagons, And Vehicles Of All Kinds.

This concern has, within the past few years, become one of the leading businesses of its kind in this part of the State. Besides manufacturing all kinds of high grade vehicles, such as buggies, carriages, wagons, etc., they have one of the most complete and best equipped repair departments to be found anywhere in this section, and also carry a full line of harness, buggy, wagon and carriage accessories, conducting a large retail store for this department of the business. Their repair department is equipped with all the latest processes, including the method of cold shrinkage of tires and other new processes recently introduced. The business is located on Tarboro and Washington Streets, reaching from one street to the other. Plans have been prepared and about June 1st they will begin the erection of a new, four-story, modern brick factory for the manufacture of their well-known line of vehicles. This factory will be thoroughly fitted up with all necessary machinery and ap-



MR. W. T. ROSE.

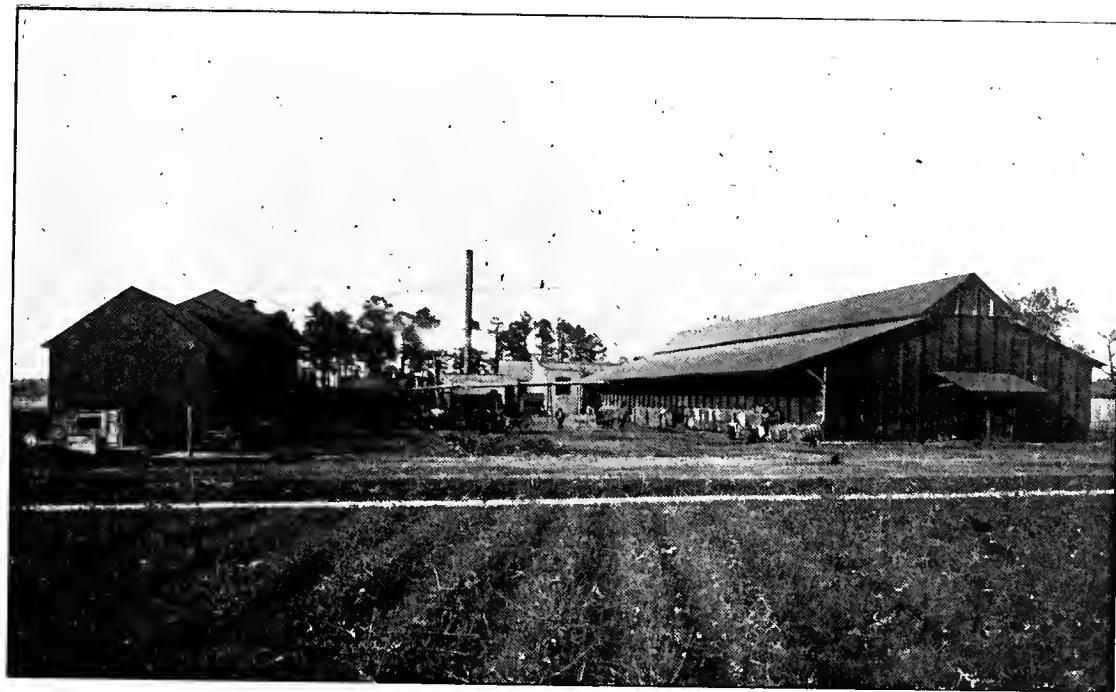


MR. HOWARD L. ROSE

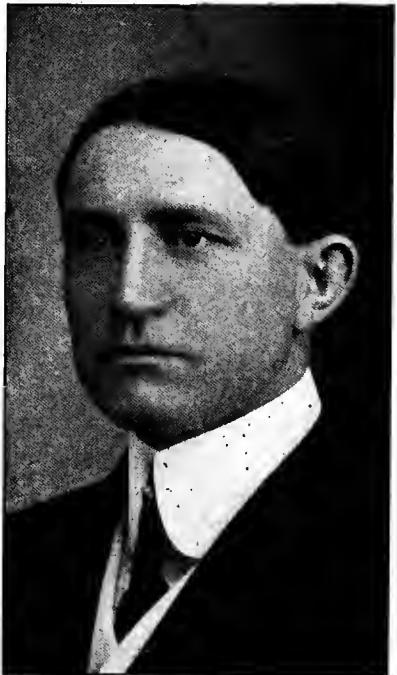
pliances, and will contain approximately eleven thousand square feet of floor space. It will be located on Tarboro Street, adjoining the present buildings.

This firm is composed of Mr. W. T. Rose and his son, Mr. Howard L. Rose. Mr. W. T. Rose was born December 31, 1863 in Edgecombe County, near Battleboro, and was married October 10, 1888, to Miss Fannie Farmer, of the prominent Wilson County family of that name. He has been engaged in his present line of business practically all his life, since he left the farm at seventeen years of age, and is one of the best informed and most competent buggy manufacturers in the State. Mr. Howard L. Rose, the junior member of the firm, was born in Wilson, N. C., July 13, 1889, was educated in the schools of Rocky Mount, and received a business education at a noted business college of Richmond, Va. Having been identified with his father's business practically all his life, young Mr. Rose possesses, even now, a thorough and intricate knowledge of the business, and is entirely conversant with every process used in the different departments. He became a partner in the business on January 1, 1911, and his good ability and progressive spirit promise to be of great value in the enlargement of the scope of the concern, and of the business field, which is now in progress.

The manufacturing department of this business was founded in 1900 by Mr. W. T. Rose, who for five or six years prior thereto had been conducting a general repair business. The growth of the manufacturing end has been rapid and substantial, each year adding to the fine reputation of the vehicles turned out by this concern. It is not too much to say that probably no business in Rocky Mount has a brighter or more promising future than the firm of W. T. Rose & Son, and on the completion of their new factory, which will be within a few months, and the consequent enlargement of facilities incident thereto, the extension of their business over Eastern North Carolina and adjoining states will be a natural result. The usefulness of such an institution in the building of a greater Rocky Mount will be readily recognized.



PLANT OF THE BATTLEBORO OIL COMPANY



MR. J. P. BUNN, Manager.

BATTLEBORO OIL COMPANY

An Excellently Managed and Distinctly Successful Manufacturing Institution of Battleboro

In the summer of nineteen hundred and two, several prominent planters of the Battleboro section, appreciating the need of a ginnery, oil mill and fertilizer factory, met together, and after securing the consent of Mr. M. C. Braswell to become its manager, there was organized the Battleboro Oil Company. The company was incorporated for twenty-five thousand dollars, and the stock issued in fifty dollar shares, and every cent of it was paid in in cash. At the first meeting Mr. M. C. Braswell was named as president, with Messrs. J. B. Phillips, H. B. Bryan and C. F. Ellen as directors, and though nearly ten years has elapsed since this first meeting, the wisdom of the first selection was shown in that there has never an officer been changed.

October of the year of organization found the new oil mill in operation, with what is known as a System ginnery and oil mill combined. That season, though an infant industry in Battleboro, there were fifteen hundred bales of cotton ginned and over two thousand tons of cotton seed crushed. At the present time, or nine years later, finds this company enjoying a large and growing business, despite materially increased competition, and for the season just closed three thousand bales of cotton have been ginned and over six thousand tons of cotton seed crushed—in other words, the Battleboro Oil Company has a modern and up-to-date ginnery and a forty-ton mill, complete.

Throughout the nine years of phenomenal growth, Mr. M. C. Braswell, as general manager, has been actively connected at all times with this firm, and his guiding hand and wise council has contributed in a large measure to the company's growth. Mr. J. P. Bunn is acting manager at all times, and his taking care of the many details of the business has caused him to be numbered as one of the best in this section of the State, so far as mill management is concerned.

While the success of this business has been a matter of pride to many who have watched its growth, with this, as with many other enterprizes in which Mr. Braswell has been a directing force, almost unprecedented success has crowned his efforts. In the world of farming, manufacturing and finance, he is a moving power in affairs in Carolina, and especially in the Counties of Nash and Edgecombe. It will be noted with interest the number of successful and representative firms that include in their directorate this farmer, merchant and manufacturer.



MR. JAMES W. KEEL.

MR. JAMES W. KEEL

Special Attorney for A. C. L. Railroad Company

James Walter Keel, one of the younger members of the Rocky Mount Bar, and the subject of this sketch, is a native of Pitt County, and was born Nov. 1, 1875. Mr. Keel was reared on the farm. He attended the school of Prof. Z. D. McWhorter, at Bethel, N. C., and Wilkinson's Male Academy, at Tarboro, of which the principal was Mr. F. S. Wilkinson, one of the most noted educators of this section. Leaving school, Mr. Keel engaged in the mercantile business with his brother at Mt. Olive, N. C., remaining there two years. In 1901 he entered the United States Mail Service, winning his position by competitive examination, and was assigned to duty in the office of the General Superintendent of the service in Washington, D. C. For eight years Mr. Keel remained in the government service in various branches, and in the meantime took up the study of law under private tutors. He went before the Supreme Court in August, 1908, and was admitted to the Bar. Resigning from the mail service he located in Rocky Mount for the practice of his profession. By his excellent ability and diligence in his work, he had built up a lucrative practice, considering the short time he had been at the Bar, when in July, 1910, the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, recognizing his ability, appointed him Special Attorney for that railroad, in which capacity he is now serving, rendering the railroad valuable and satisfactory service.

MR. Z. B. BULLUCK

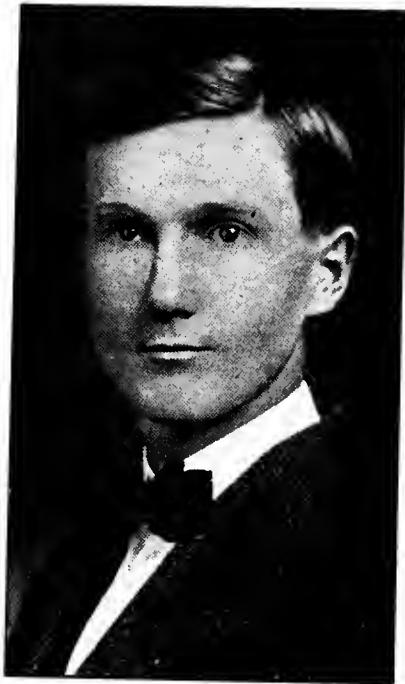
A Capable and Aggressive Young Business Man Who Has Made a Notable Success. Proprietor and Operator of The Leading Meat Market of Rocky Mount

One of the most marked successes achieved within the past decade by the younger business men of Rocky Mount is that of Mr. Zebulon B. Bulluck, the subject of this story. Mr. Bulluck entered the meat market business in this city just six years ago, in the summer of 1905. From a small beginning, he has grown until today he numbers his patrons by the hundreds among the most select circles of the city. This has been achieved principally by means of Mr. Bulluck's unusually good business ability reinforced by the facts that he is ever careful to treat every customer with the utmost consideration, and makes it a point to always handle the best and freshest meats on the market. The much sought after native meat is a specialty of his. He is also at this time a large buyer of hides and furs, and on account of the present large volume of business, carries several competent and courteous assistants.

Mr. Bulluck's financial success has kept pace with the growth of his meat business. Within the past few years, he has been a considerable buyer of the best class of Rocky Mount real estate and today his holdings would doubtless reach upwards of Twenty Thousand Dollars. He is also a valued and influential stockholder in the First National Bank of Rocky Mount, the only national bank in the city.

Mr. Bulluck comes of sturdy and prominent Edgecombe county stock. He was born in Edgecombe a few miles from Rocky Mount, April 9, 1884, and is therefore now only 27 years old which makes his large financial success all the more notable and surprising to have achieved so much at so early an age. Mr. Bulluck was married some years ago to Miss Foy Williams, an attractive and gifted lady whose home was at Maxton, N. C. Mr. and Mrs. Bulluck have a modern and beautiful residence at 230 Rose Street in one of the best residential sections of the city, where they dispense hospitality to their large and increasing circle of friends.

In the business world of Rocky Mount and this part of the state, Mr. Bulluck, on account of the fine qualities he



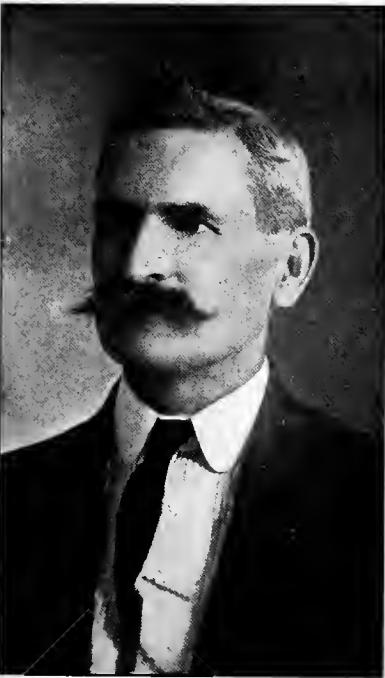
MR. Z. B. BULLUCK

possesses and his marked business and financial success, has attained quite an enviable standing, and it is not too much to say that no man in Rocky Mount has a brighter future both in a business way, and in the way of being a useful citizen and contributing to the onward march of Rocky Mount.

The telephone numbers of Mr. Bulluck's business place which is in the City Hall, are 51 and 395.



RESIDENCE OF MR. Z. B. BULLUCK



MR. S. S. TOLER.

One of Rocky Mount's Most Substantial And Highly Esteemed Citizens, And A Contractor And Builder of Wide And Well Established Reputation.

Among the contractors and builders of Eastern Carolina, two whose reputation for capability and conscientious work is not excelled by any, are Messrs. D. J. Rose and S. S. Toler, the subject of this sketch, who for a number of years were associated in the business together. A sketch of Mr. Rose is given elsewhere in this book, and it is our pleasant task here to tell something of Mr. Toler. Messrs. Rose and Toler recently dissolved copartnership, but each remains in the same line of business. It would be difficult to say anything good of one that is not deserved by the other also, for both are men whose large successes have been well earned, and whose names stand for the highest merit, and ability in the Southern contracting field.

Mr. Toler is a native of Johnston County, N. C., and was born Feb. 26, 1869. He was reared on the farm and remained in his vocation of farming until he was 22 years of age, when he accepted a position with Mr. Rose in the contracting and building business. So rapid was his development and so honest and capable his work, that in 1900, he became a partner in the firm. The wide success and magnificent record of this firm both in Rocky Mount and all over the South is too well known to need enlargement here. It suffices to say that they have built a reputation for successful and satisfactory handling of contracts from the largest to the small ones, that extends all the way from Delaware to Florida. Here in Rocky Mount, they have erected buildings of the best class too numerous to mention. The business of the firm was so

MR. S. S. TOLER
Mount, they have erected buildings

large that a separate department had to be assigned to each member of the firm, Mr. Toler being usually the man in active charge of the construction. Among the buildings erected here of which he had charge, might be mentioned, the shops at South Rocky Mount, the Hales & Edwards building, the residence of Judge Taylor, the Masonic Temple, the Bank of Rocky Mount building, the Shore Building, the store of W. D. & C. A. Cochran, the Ricks Hotel, the Cambridge Hotel, and numerous others that rank among the best in Eastern Carolina. Mr. Toler's construction work, as has been stated, has extended all over the southeastern states, including factories for the F. S. Royster Guano Co., the Dutton Phosphate Works for the Dutton Phosphate Co., at Jacksonville, Fla., and numbers of buildings the completion of which called for the expenditure of money running into the hundreds of thousands.

In every case, Mr. Toler has conclusively proven that he was equal to the situation, and knows how to satisfactorily complete the largest contracts, and moreover, that he knows how to handle men. One thing that has been characteristic of his work and partly accounts for the high esteem in which he is held by the business firms and corporations for which he has worked, is the fact that he so constructs his buildings and other works, not only that they may be satisfactory now, but that in the future they may still plainer evidence that every foot of work put in them was honest work. It is not to be wondered at therefore, that Mr. Toler's services are in such great demand by interests large and small over several states.

Here in Rocky Mount, Mr. Toler is known, as not only one of the best contractors in the business, but as a useful and influential citizen, and a man of the highest character, possessing the entire confidence of his business associates, and of the whole city. Every year since his coming to Rocky Mount, in 1902, he has grown in the esteem of his fellow-citizens, as they have come to know him better. He has a handsome residence on Rose Street in one of the best residential sections of the city, where he and Mrs. Toler reside. Mrs. Toler was formerly Miss Carrie Stevens of Goldsboro, and was married to Mr. Toler thirteen years ago. They have two children.

Financial success has followed business success with Mr. Toler, and he has won a very comfortable share of this world's goods. To those who know him and whom he has contracted with, his word is his bond, they could ask no better bond, as he has conclusively proven that he is able financially and in every other way, to carry out to the letter any contract he desires to accept. Those whom he consents to serve, may count themselves fortunate, for he is a man who not only fulfills his contracts in every respect, but carries with him a fixed determination to render satisfaction in every particular to the end that the coming years may prove his work to be even better than at first appeared.

Personally, Mr. Toler impresses one as a man of strong and forceful personality, and solid merits of character. This first impression is intensified by closer acquaintance, for his whole life proves the correctness of it.



HON. W. L. THORP

HON. WILLIAM L. THORP.

Attorney At Law, Judge Of the County Court Of Nash County And Ex-Mayor Of Rocky Mount.

Judge Wm. Lewis Thorp, the subject of this sketch is a member of one of the oldest and most prominent Nash County families, which has been closely identified with and influential in county affairs for generations. Judge Thorp was born at the old Thorp place in Nash County, three miles from Rocky Mount, on October 26, 1848. He took his law course under the late Chief Justice Richmond M. Pearson, one of the most eminent Jurists and teachers of law that North Carolina has ever produced. Being duly admitted to the bar in 1870, on examination by the Supreme Court of North Carolina, Judge Thorp located in Rocky Mount for the practice of his profession. Soon thereafter, he purchased The Rocky Mount Mail, a newspaper, which he edited for four years. Ill health coming on, he thought it best to sell his newspaper, give up his practice temporarily, and move to a farm which he purchased at Hilliardston. Here he lived ten years, in a measure recovering his health, and then moved to Nashville, the county seat, in Jan. 1888, and resumed the practice of his profession. In the campaign of that year, Judge Thorp was Chairman of the Nash County Democratic Executive Committee, waging an aggressive campaign, and converting a considerable Republican majority in 1886 into a tremendous Democratic majority in 1888. In 1889, he moved his law office back to Rocky Mount for permanent location.

On the resignation of Mayor Thomas H. Battle in 1894, Judge Thorp was elected to the Mayoralty of Rocky Mount by the Board of Commissioners, and was re-elected year by year by the people in 1895, 1896 and 1897. In 1898, Judge Thorp announced months in advance that he would not again be a candidate for

re-election, and in the campaign of that year he supported Mr. J. H. Baker, Jr., who was duly elected. Mr. Baker served three terms, and in 1901 Judge Thorp was again called from his retirement by the people of Rocky Mount, and was again elected Mayor of the City. So ably and satisfactorily did he administer the duties of his position that he was re-elected continuously until 1909, when he again announced, months in advance that he would not accept re-election, having served in all, twelve years as chief executive of the city. He was succeeded as Mayor in 1909 by Hon. T. T. Thorne. For two years thereafter Judge Thorp devoted his entire time to his large law practice, but in April, 1911, just past, he was again called to public life by his election as County Judge (styled "Recorder") of Nash County, in which responsible office he is now serving the people of his native county with his characteristic fairness, fine legal ability, and with honor to the judiciary.

For over twenty years Judge Thorpe has been closely identified with a number of the most important business organizations of Rocky Mount. He assisted in the organization several years ago of the Rocky Mount Insurance & Realty Company, one of the largest real estate and insurance concerns in Eastern Carolina, and he has been since its organization, a director in, and Attorney for, that organization.

Judge Thorp has been twice married; the first time to Miss Mary E. Arrington, daughter of Hon. A. H. Arrington, of Nash County, by which marriage he had four children, only two of whom reached maturity, Archibald Arrington Thorp, who after attaining manhood died in 1907, and Miss Virginia, who married Mr. R. H. Gregory, and who died in 1903. After the death of his first wife in April, 1883, Judge Thorpe was married the second time, in 1885, to Miss Mildred B. Holmes, daughter of Mr. Gabriel Holmes, of Sampson County, and of this marriage he had six children, three of whom are living, Misses Mary and Mildred and Mr. William L. Thorp Jr.

The Editors of this work take great pleasure in having an opportunity here to give expression to the high respect and regard the people of Rocky Mount and of this whole section have for Judge Thorp, not only on account of his fine ability and worthful and honorable public service, but also on account of his stainless private life and the many engaging traits which he possesses that have endeared him to a host of friends. As evidence of his popularity among all classes of people, it might be stated here that in all his career he has never been defeated for any public position to which he has aspired. Considering his wide popularity, backed up as it has been by splendid ability, the large and lucrative practice which Judge Thorp enjoys is therefore not surprising.

Judge Thorp's law offices are in the Bank of Rocky Mount building, next to the City Hall. He is known as a safe counsellor, well versed in the intricate knowledge of the law, and one who safeguards the interests of his wide clientele with the most absolute fidelity and care. His clients are numbered among the high and the low, the rich and the poor, and all receive the same high service and courteous consideration at his hands.



MR. E. M. VICK



PAVEMENT MADE BY MR. E. M. VICK



SHOWING BACK VIEW OF HOUSE BUILT OF CONCRETE BY MR. E. M. VICK



MR. W. A. MEADOWS

MR. W. A. MEADOWS

Mr. W. A. Meadows is recognized by all who are acquainted with his work as one of the most experienced accountants in the State, being efficient, careful and accurate. He was born in Durham, N. C., April 4, 1881. He gained his education at Horner Military School.

He came to this city several years ago to work in Gravely's warehouse and since that time he has worked with the Imperial Tobacco Co., and for a combination consisting of all the warehouses. When the Ricks Hotel was opened he was secured as auditor and lately he has given almost his entire time to the large business conducted by the proprietors of the Ricks Hotel, who, as related elsewhere, operate five hotels. He has decided to give up his work in the tobacco business and to engage in the hotel business in a managerial capacity, with the proprietor of the Ricks. Mr. Meadows is unquestionably one of the city's most popular young men and adds much to the social life of the city. He is a member of the Masonic and Pythian fraternities. Mr. Meadows is not only popular at home but his connection with the hotel business has thrown him with the traveling public and he is widely and popularly known by the traveling men.

MR. E. M. VICK.

A Leading Contractor And Builder, Making A Specialty Of Concrete Work.

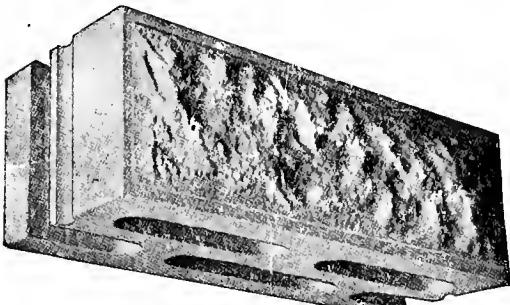
Mr. E. M. Vick, one of Rocky Mount's leading contractors, and a useful citizen, was born at Bethel, N. C. in 1873. He came to Rocky Mount in 1907, and engaged in contracting and building, making a specialty of concrete work. It is not too much to say that in his line of special work, Mr. Vick has no superior in this section of the

state. He learned the details of the concrete construction under experts in New Haven, Conn., which knowledge he backs up with valuable and successful experience in the practical part of the business. Realizing the great possibilities in concrete construction after investigation, Mr. Vick decided to make it his life work. Coming to Rocky Mount, he built his home, a handsome structure, on Arlington St., entirely of concrete. A picture is shown of a residence which was erected by Mr. Vick entirely of concrete and is a two-story house of seven rooms. When completed, it will be a pretty piece of architecture. Mr. Vick has a complete concrete plant located on Arlington St., and is thoroughly prepared to manufacture any kind of concrete block for buildings trimming or curbing or walks. He has done quite a good bit of work for the city of Rocky Mount. A picture is shown of some of

the paving done by him on Main Street. Mr. Vick contends that concrete is preferable in all kinds of building. It makes a handsomer structure than ordinary brick, and is more substantial and lasting; and while possessing these superior qualities, is also as cheap. Mr. Vick's favorite block is the "Miracle Block" which has the record of making a structure absolutely frost-proof and moisture-proof.

Mr. Vick is held in high esteem by all who know him, and especially by those for whom he has done work, for his ability in his line of work, and for his thorough reliability and the good faith he shows in all his transactions. He was married in 1904 to Miss Florence Rudolph, of Pennsylvania, and from this union have been born two children.

In conclusion, it might be stated, that Mr. Vick is prepared to handle capably and with dispatch, any job in his line of construction work.



"THE MIRACLE BLOCK"

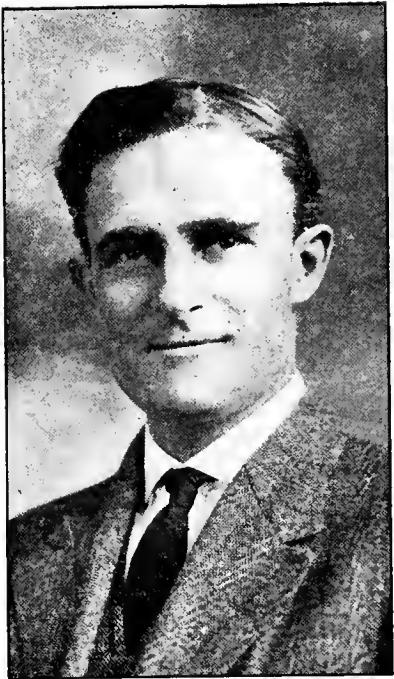
MR. RALPH PITT.

A Highly Successful Warehouseman. Experience Of Eighteen Successive Years In The Business.

It requires a man of strong mind and of enduring physical strength to make a successful warehouseman, and it might well be added a man of exceptional judgment and years of practical experience. It can be stated without fear of successful contradiction that no man in this State combines all these qualities to a larger extent than Ralph Pitt. This statement will be instantly recognized as literally true by all who know him and that means practically every one who has sold tobacco on the Rocky Mount tobacco market in the past 18 years, or who has been in any way connected with the market. Mr. Pitt has the unbounded confidence of all who know him, not only for his ability in the warehouse business, but for his strict integrity and fair dealing.

Mr. Pitt is a native born to this section, having first seen the light of day Nov. 17, 1871, in Edgecombe county. When quite a young man, he decided to engage in the tobacco business and accepted a minor position with Mr. J. O. W. Gravely, the pioneer tobacconist on the Rocky Mount market, in 1893. He worked his way up in the business and today he can lay claim to the fact that he has successfully filled every position connected with the conduct of a warehouse. The experience of Mr. Pitt in the business is more varied than that of any man in North Carolina or Virginia, as can readily be realized from a relation of the number of years he has spent in the business on this market, in South Carolina and western North Carolina, thereby gaining a knowledge of practically all grades of tobacco raised in this country.

Mr. Pitt first engaged as an owner in the warehouse business on the Florence, S. C., market in 1900, where he was eminently successful for three years. He then moved to Rocky Mount and bought out Mr. J. O. W. Gravely. He was instantly successful here, but was burned out in the middle of that season. However, by the following season he had erected, in partnership with Mr. J. E. Crute, a brick warehouse, which they continued to conduct until

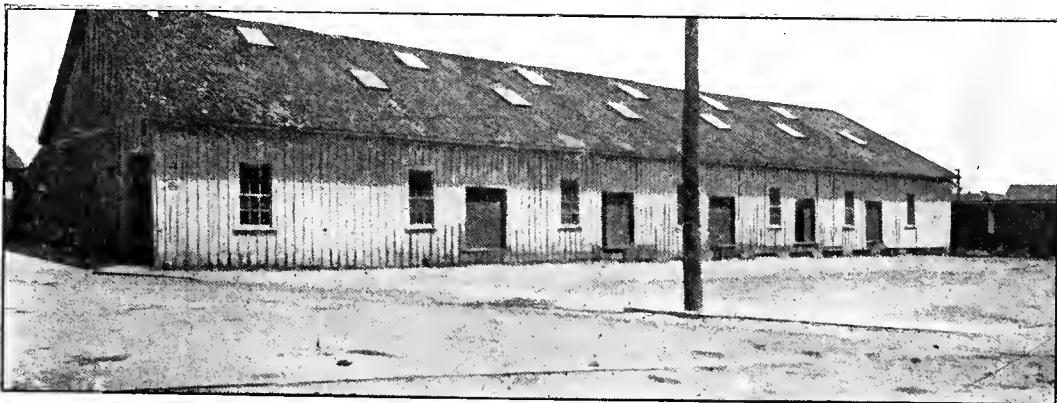


MR. RALPH PITTS

last year, when an attractive offer was made to them to sell, which they accepted. As an evidence of the high reputation of Mr. Pitt in the business, he was then offered the management of the Leader warehouse at Winston, the largest warehouse in Virginia, North and South Carolina, and located on the largest market in those States. Though successful in a high degree there, he yearned for his old home, and consequently he recently consummated the purchase of the warehouse and good will of Mr. J. O. W. Gravely and immediately began active preparations for the approaching season.

Mr. Pitt recognizes the need of good accommodations for his customers and their stock, and before the season opens next August he will make improvements that will make his accommodations for his customers and their stock second to none on any market. In fact he is planning to be the first in this line. Also he recognizes the necessity of competent employes and he has already secured the services of Mr. C. E. Allen as auctioneer, who has been on this market three years, and is a thoroughly competent auctioneer in every respect, and Mr. Jim W. Cobb, of Pinetops, as bookkeeper, who is also well and favorably known. Before the season opens he will have a complete force of thoroughly competent men.

Mr. Pitt has been engaged in the tobacco business for eighteen successive years and knows the business in its every detail. This enables him to protect his customers in every possible way. He has always done so in the past and those who have the success of the Rocky Mount tobacco market at heart will be glad to know that he will conduct a warehouse business on the local market next season. Especially will this be true so far as his many friends who plant the weed are concerned, for no one is better or more favorably known to the farmers, adjacent to the Rocky Mount Tobacco Market.



PITT'S WAREHOUSE

MR. THOMAS C. GORHAM.

The Leading Merchant and Druggist at South Rocky Mount. A Man of Large Success and High Character



T. C. Gorham's Restaurant, Drug Store and General Merchandise Store at South Rocky Mount.

Rocky Mount restaurant being widely known and patronized by people along all the lines of the railroad. Mr. Gorham has become thoroughly identified with the progress of that part of the city, being himself one of the most forceful elements. He has been a capable and efficient member of the Board of Aldermen of Rocky Mount and is an influential director of the First National Bank. He is very popular with the large body of railroad employees, striving at all times as he does, to advance their interests and see that they get the best. He is married to Miss Minnie Cutchin, daughter of Mr. J. M. Cutchin, of Whitakers, by whom he has four children, all boys.

Mr. T. C. Gorham, the subject of this sketch, is a native of Edgecombe county, having been born near Battleboro Aug. 8th, 1866. Mr. Gorham is a member of one of the oldest and most influential Edgecombe county families, one that has been identified with county affairs for a long number of years. He came to Rocky Mount fifteen years ago, opening a hotel at South Rocky Mount, one of the pioneer business men in that thriving section of the city. Later he established a mercantile business and a drug business, and restaurant, all of which have prospered to a gratifying degree under his able management and the consistent fair treatment and courtesy he freely accords to every patron of his places. Mr. Gorham is the owner and operator of one of the very best restaurants in the South, Gorham's South



MR. H. C. DIXON

MR. HOWARD C. DIXON

The Leading Plumber of The City

Among the younger business men of Rocky Mount who are achieving success in their chosen lines of work, Mr. Howard C. Dixon stands out prominently. Mr. Dixon is yet a very young man, having been born in Rocky Mount July 15, 1885, and on this account his success is all the more notable. Mr. Dixon is the proprietor and operator of the well-known plumbing, tinning and roofing concern of this city, which bears his name, and which has taken a high stand within the past few years on account of the high grade of work done, and the efficiency with which the business is conducted.

Mr. Howard Clifton Dixon is a son of Mr. Geo. R. Dixon, of Rocky Mount, one of the city's most substantial citizens and one of the oldest, most capable and best known tinners in North Carolina. Mr. G. R. Dixon has been a citizen of Rocky Mount since it was only a country village, and has literally grown with the city. On account of his father having been in practically the same business, Mr. Howard C. Dixon has therefore been in the same line of business he is now conducting, since childhood, and it is not a matter of wonder that he has reached the high degree of efficiency in his business which it is universally admitted he possesses today. Mr. Dixon was educated in the Rocky Mount Graded Schools, and worked with his father until 1908, when he went in business for himself, establishing his present concern. From his initial day, Mr. Dixon has "made good" to a gratifying degree. Always conscientious and thorough in his work, determined that his patrons shall be absolutely satisfied with every job he performs, and with all the necessary expert knowledge of his business for the purpose, Mr. Dixon has won a standing in the plumbing, tinning and roofing business, and in the confidence of



INTERIOR VIEW MR. DIXON'S PLUMBING SHOP

Mr. Dixon is not only a business man of assured standing, but possesses a large number of attractive qualities and a strength of character that have rendered him very popular in other respects. He is unmarried.

the people that is a forceful asset for his future career in the business. So rapid has been the growth of his business that in Nov. 1909, Mr. Dixon was under the necessity of moving to larger quarters, and so came about his occupancy of his present commodious and well-situated building on Washington Street. One of his specialties is high-grade cornice work, and another is slate roofing. In the matter of plumbing he has become the last authority in Rocky Mount on all the details of the highest-class work. Mr. Dixon carries in his place a full and complete line of plumbing fixtures, and all kinds of tinning supplies. He does not hesitate to accept contracts that involve the utmost skill and a large expenditure of money. One of his out-of-town contracts, which he completed to the utmost satisfaction of those concerned, was the installation of the entire plumbing system and fixtures of the elegant new county court house at Halifax, N. C. Those who have work of this character may call on Mr. Dixon with the full assurance that they will receive entire satisfaction and the best and most expert service that can be obtained.

THE MODEL BARBER SHOP.

Wiley Davis, Proprietor.

This barber shop, which is one of the most modern and best equipped in the city, is situated in the center of the business district on Main Street next to the Planters Bank. The proprietor is Wiley Davis, one of the worthiest and most successful of Rocky Mount's colored citizens. Wiley is himself a skilful tonsorial artist and keeps besides himself, four experienced and capable barbers, Jno. Bishop, Robt. Cook, S. H. Brown, and Richard Cox. The latest modern and improved appliances are in evidence here, no expense being spared to have everything that can add to the efficiency and quality of the work done and to the comfort and satisfaction of the patrons of the shop. Electric massage and baths are also to be had at this shop. After each service, every utensil in use is thoroughly cleansed and sterilized before using it again, thus assuring the maximum of neatness and protection. The proprietor, Wiley Davis, as has been said above, is a representative of the best and most useful type of the colored people of the South. He attends strictly to his own business, exerting every effort to please and give the best service to those who patronize him; and that the people appreciate this, is shown by the large business he does and by the fact that his careful courtesy and economy have resulted in his accumulation of property to the value of several thousands of dollars in real estate, besides his well quipped shop.



INTERIOR VIEW OF MODEL BARBER SHOP.

THE ROCKY MOUNT BRICK COMPANY.

Mammoth Plant Equipped With Every Mechanical Aid and Device Known to Modern Brick Making.

This company, whose manufacturing plant is one of the most thoroughly modern in Rocky Mount, was organized under its present name and management in 1907. The moving forces in the company are Messrs. D. J. Rose, T. W. Coleman and W. R. Coleman. Mr. Rose is President, Mr. T. W. Coleman, Secretary & Treasurer, and Mr. W. R. Coleman, Vice-President and Manager. To those who know these men and their accomplishment in this and other fields, the very fact that the business was to be under their direction and management was a guarantee of its success. They are all men who are and have been broadly successful, with a complete and practical knowledge of all the intricate details of the business and the manufacture of brick. A sketch of Mr. Rose, whose name is a synonym for success, will be found elsewhere in connection with a story of his large contracting and construction business.

Mr. Thomas W. Coleman, the Secretary & Treasurer of the Rocky Mount Brick Co., is also associated with Mr. Rose in the contracting and construction work, and is the active manager of his Rocky Mount business. In addition, Mr. Coleman has been in active charge of some of the largest contracts Mr. Rose has completed in other states, among them being various large fertilizer factories for the F. S. Royster Guano Co. in several cities in the South, the buildings of the Phosphate Mining Works at Bartow Fla., and others of like magnitude. Here in Rocky Mount, Mr. Coleman has superintended the construction of the following among others, the Braswell & Levy tobacco factory, the Rocky Mount Public Works, the Rocky Mount Hosiery Co., Hales & Edwards, all of which are among the most admirable structures in Eastern Carolina. Mr. Coleman is a native of Warren County, N. C., and is 44 years old. On his first coming to this part of the state several years ago, he accepted a position with Ex-Gov. Elias Carr as manager of his large plantation. Later he was with the Rocky Mount Mills in various capacities, making good in each. Since that time he has been with the D. J. Rose Construction Co., occupying a most responsible position, which he fills with splendid ability and eminent satisfaction. Besides being notably thorough and competent in his work, Mr. Coleman is a man of fine character, warmly esteemed by a large circle of friends and by the public generally, who have every confidence in his judgment and fair and honorable transaction of all business committed to his care. Mr. Coleman was married in Nov. 1910 to Miss Bessie Barnes, of Johnston county, member of a prominent family of that county, and a niece of Mr. D. J. Rose.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT & MANAGER.

The Vice-President and Manager of the Rocky Mount Brick Co., Mr. William Richard Coleman, is one of the most popular and promising young business men of Rocky Mount. He was born July 12, 1886, in Mecklenburg County, Virginia. He received a good academical education at an excellent high school at Wise, Warren county. In 1905 soon after leaving school, he came to Rocky Mount. For two years, he was manager of the Edgecombe Brick & Tile Co., evidencing in that responsible position, business ability and judgment of a high order., and in 1907, on the organization of the Rocky Mount Brick Company, he accepted the position of Manager to which he was elected. The rapid strides made in every phase of the business during its four years of business life, and the thorough effectiveness of both the manufacturing and business departments of the Rocky Mount Brick Company, are ample proof that Mr. Coleman not only possesses fine business ability, but also has the resourcefulness and generalship to capably direct a large business and to manage men in a way to produce the largest results. Determined to be absolute master of his vocation, Mr. Coleman has made a study of clay work and the manufacture of brick, keeping fully abreast of the times in his line of work, and continually striving for new methods to reduce the cost, increase the output, being ever careful to keep the quality of the brick manufactured at the highest possible degree of perfection. The future for him in his chosen business is particularly bright, for this is a day of specialists.

THE PLANT.

There is probably not a better equipped plant for the manufacture of brick, in North Carolina, than that of the Rocky Mount Brick Company. It is located in the eastern suburbs of the city and the holdings of the company around the plant are approximately 30 acres, of clay, ideally suited for the manufacture of high class building brick.

The plant is complete, and can easily turn out 3,000,000 brick per year. They have installed one of the largest of the famous brick machines manufactured by J. C. Steele & Sons of Statesville, N. C., and the admirably arrangement of every detail and part of the plant, together with the machine-like working and precision of every factor in the manufacture, constitutes a high tribute to the forceful managerial capacity there evidenced. The clay is mined by means of a 45-Horse Power hoisting engine with a drag scraper operated with approximately 3,000 feet of 5-8-inch steel cable attached, eliminating the use of horses or mules altogether. This cable draws the scraper from a distance of 350 feet, gathering the contents, three-fourths of a cubic yard of clay, in its approach to the dumping point, and there automatically empties the contents into a clay-car, which is in turn drawn by

a steel cable up an inclined track finally emptying the contents into the brick machine. This method of mining the clay was devised by Messrs. W. R. Coleman and D. J. Rose, and speaks volumes for their inventive and mechanical ability. Besides eliminating a large part of the mining expense, it enables them to greatly increase their capacity. The cable-drawn drag, above mentioned, which gathers its own contents as it approaches the dumping place, will move three-fourths of a cubic yard of clay every five minutes, which in a ten hour day, amounts to the enormous bulk of ninety cubic yards.

In fact, the most forcible impression one gains in inspecting the plant of this company, is the fact that machinery

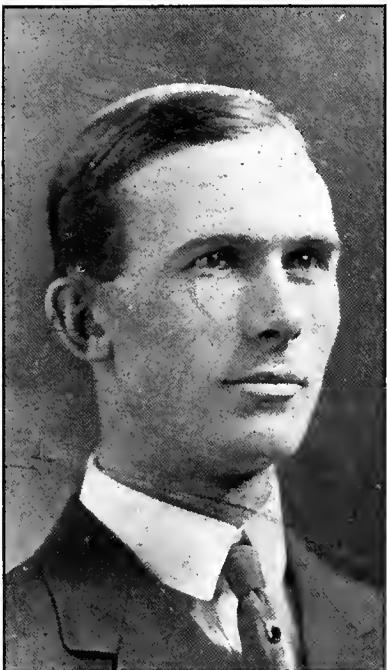


VIEW OF ROCKY MOUNT BRICK COMPANY'S BED OF CLAY

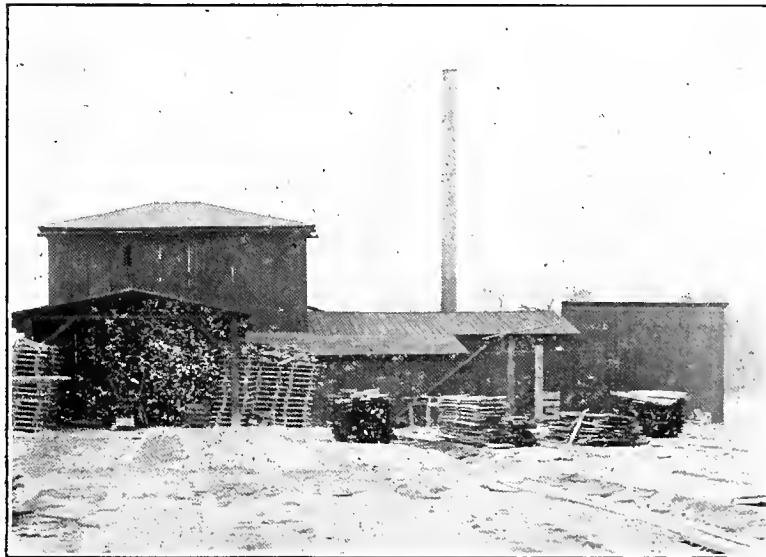
Also showing Cable which extends over field and by use of 45-horse power hoisting engine draws big buckets of clay to track from where it is carried to brick machine. This is an original invention, and saves use of several mules and a number of hands

does the work at every point, and this pleasing effect is further enhanced by the pleasure that is always felt in observing a smoothly and perfectly running manufactory, wherein everything and every employee has a particular duty to perform and performs it with ease, accuracy and regularity.

A plant conducted as is this one, naturally produces a high class of work, and the brick here manufactured are the favorite of the market of Rocky Mount and surrounding territory. No better building brick is manufactured anywhere, and it is characteristic of this concern, that the high grade of the manufactured product is reinforced with business methods that hold customers.



MR. W. R. COLEMAN, Mgr.



VIEW SH. WING PART OF ROCKY MOUNT BRICK COMPANY'S PLANT

JENKINS & JEFFREYS.

Livery, Exchange and Sales Stables.



MR. Z. V. JENKINS.

The firm of Jenkins & Jeffreys was formed and began business Jan. 1, 1910, establishing its business in the large and commodious quarters formerly occupied by the late J. D. Odom. This firm is composed of Messrs: Z. V. Jenkins and W. E. Jeffreys, two of the leading citizens and business men of Rocky Mount and Nash county. A full sketch of Mr. Jeffreys, can be found elsewhere in this book.

Mr. Zebulon Vance Jenkins, the active Manager of this concern is one of the best known and most influential citizens of Nash county, having held with credit, a number of public positions of trust and honor, and has been for nearly twenty years one of most forceful Democratic leaders of his county. In 1898, he was Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of Nash county, and in the memorable campaign of that year, redeemed the county, overcoming a Republican-Populist majority of over 1300 in the previous election. He also conducted the aggressive and successful campaign of 1900, in which Nash did her part in ratifying the Constitutional Amendment disfranchising the ignorant negro voters. Mr. Jenkins has been at various times, Deputy-Sheriff, Assistant Register of Deeds, and during the Legislature of 1909, was Clerk to the Committee of Counties, Cities and towns. In all of these positions, he has discharged his duties fearlessly and capably. No man in the county stands higher in the respect and regard of his fellow-citizens, for he is a clean fighter as well as fearless one. He is yet a comparatively young man, having been born in Nashville July 14, 1872. As a business man, he is able and progressive. His present business is a growing and prosperous one. The firm handles horses and mules in car load lots, together with the best makes of buggies and harness and is fast winning a fine reputation among the best classes of the trade. Mr. Jenkins is also an experienced tobacco dealer, and a prominent and successful planter. He was married several years ago to Miss Westbrook of Pender county, a member of a prominent Pender county family.

MOON & McLEMORE

Proprietors of The Queen City Pressing Club, The Most Popular Concern
of Its Kind in the City



For several years the people of Rocky Mount, or a great per cent of them, have been having their clothes pressed and cleaned at The Queen City Pressing Club, 'phone 144. This Club is better equipped at present than ever before to satisfy their customers in every respect. Equipped with the latest and most improved appliances, and employing only expert help, this Pressing Club is daily adding to its fine reputation for high-class work and satisfactory service. The present owners are Messrs. George W. Moon and W. E. McLemore, with Mr. Moon as active manager. Mr. Moon is not only capable and conscientious in his work, but is a young man of fine character and excellent parts who has made good under difficult circumstances. He was born July 12, 1890, in Granville county, was raised on his father's farm, and came to Rocky Mount in 1905. He worked steadily in the pressing club business, saving his money and applying himself industriously to his duties until March, 1911, when he found that he had saved

enough to purchase his present share in the business. A young man of this sort is bound to succeed.

Mr. Moon was married in 1909 to Miss Whitley, of Halifax County.

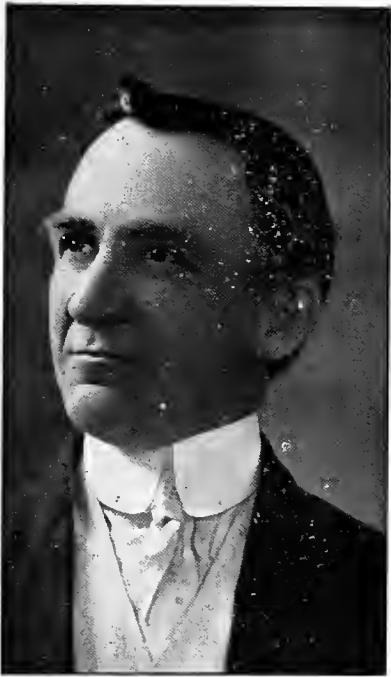
A sketch of Mr. McLemore will be found in the story of the large tailoring business of which he is manager. The quarters of this Pressing Club are at 122 North Main Street.



THE SHORE BUILDING

THE SHORE BUILDING

This is one of the handsomest buildings of the city. It is owned by Messrs. P. C. and A. E. Shore, who are numbered among our most substantial and highly respected citizens. The building is occupied by The First National Bank, Bulluck, Philips & Co. and Robbins pool room.



MR. ARCHIE NUNN

ROCKY MOUNT SIGN WORKS

Mr. Archie R. Nunn, Proprietor.

This enterprise is located in the Echo Building on Main street, opposite the postoffice, and is doing now quite a volume of business. In fact, so quietly and unostentatiously does Mr. Nunn proceed about his work that few people in Rocky Mount have any idea of the amount of business done by him. At present, he is shipping signs to practically all the towns in Eastern North Carolina. For instance in one day recently, he shipped over 200 different signs to Tarboro. Solely on its merits, his work is becoming widely and most favorably known over this part of the State. There is no kind of sign work that Mr. Nunn is not fully equipped to do satisfactorily. Some of his specialties are road signs, cloth sale signs, office signs, and gold and silver lettering. Among his Rocky Mount work, might be mentioned the beautiful gold leaf signs on The Planters Bank, The Bank of Rocky Mount, The First National Bank, the Savings Bank, Wilkinson, Bulluck & Co., and Mr. Von Milgrom's Jewelry Store. For some time Mr. Nunn has travelled all over this part of the State, building up the most lucrative part of his work, and now his plans are to employ additional labor, and take care of the smaller jobs also. He, himself, is one of the most skilled experts in his line to be found in the State.

Mr. Nunn is a native of Rocky Mount and was born June 22, 1875. He was reared in Wilmington, and returned to Rocky Mount eighteen years ago, and has made this his headquarters ever since. He now proposes to make Rocky Mount the center of the sign business in Eastern Carolina, and there is no reason why he should not succeed.



MR. J. W. DAVENPORT

MR. J. W. DAVENPORT

One of the Ablest and Most Successful of Rocky Mount's Younger Business Men.
Proprietor of the Large General Store of J. W. Davenport, on Washington
Street, and Stockholder in Other Leading Concerns

One of the most popular stores on Washington Street, which is one of the busiest retail districts in the city, is that of Mr. J. W. Davenport, General Merchant. Mr. Davenport carries, besides a complete and up-to-date line of groceries, one of the best lines of custom tailoring, ready-to-wear clothing, hats, shoes, furniture and notions. Since the establishment of his business in August, 1894, it has steadily grown each year, until now its patronage is notably wide and profitable.

Mr. Davenport was born in Pitt County, and was raised in Martin County, in which county he still owns and operates a fine plantation. Much of his business success is doubtless due to his being reared on the farm, and the sterling qualities of character, energy and persistency there imbibed. He came to Rocky Mount in 1894, attending school for one year afterward, and then held a position with the A. C. L. R. R. Co., as Conductor and in other capacities, for five years, rendering the railroad valuable service, and retiring to establish his present business.

Mr. Davenport's fine character, uniform consideration and courtesy to his patrons and to all with whom he has business dealings, together with his splendid business ability, have won for him a high standing in Rocky Mount business circles. Besides his large mercantile establishment, he is a stockholder in two of the leading Rocky Mount banks, The Bank of Rocky Mount and the First National, and is a large holder of valuable Rocky Mount real estate. He owns in addition, as stated above, a fine plantation in Martin County. The large measure of success that has come

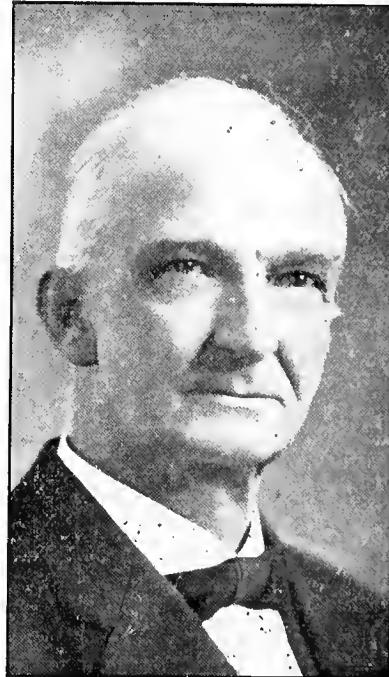
to Mr. Davenport is a high tribute to his ability and honorable life, and the other engaging personal qualities he possesses have won for him a wide and constantly increasing circle of friends and patrons. He was married in January, 1906, to Miss Clarice Otta Johnson, of Louisburg, an attractive and gifted daughter of one of the most prominent and influential Franklin County families.

HON. JACOB BATTLE.

Ranking among the very ablest of the lawyers of North Carolina is Judge Jacob Battle, the subject of this sketch, and the dean of the Rocky Mount bar. Judge Battle was born January 16, 1852, in Nash County. The family is one of the most distinguished and gifted in the State, the record of their eminent services to North Carolina dating back before the Revolutionary War. One of Judge Battle's ancestors was Hon. Elisha Battle, President of the North Carolina Convention, which ratified the Constitution of the United States. The father of Judge Battle was Capt. Turner Westray Battle, one of the wealthiest and courtliest of the ante-bellum planters of Edgecombe, and a gallant Confederate soldier, commanding Company I, Fifteenth Reg. State Troops, during the Civil War.

Judge Jacob Battle was reared amidst affluence and culture, and was educated at the University of North Carolina, and the University of Virginia, also taking his law course at the latter institution, in addition to studying under private tutors. He was licensed to practice in 1876, and rapidly won a commanding position among the greatest of North Carolina lawyers. As Judge of the Superior Court, he took rank as one of the most learned and best equipped jurists on the bench. Since his retirement from the bench, Judge Battle has devoted his entire attention to his large and lucrative law practice. He has always been a staunch Democrat with wide political influence. Among other positions he has held, was that of State Senator in 1892, in which he rendered his district and the State conspicuous service.

Judge Battle has been twice married, the first time in 1874 to Miss Iva Isabelle Steele, of Yorkville, S. C. From this union having one son, Mr. Jacob Battle, Jr. After the death of his first wife in 1894, he was married November 4, 1896 to Miss Nellie G. Gupton of Rocky Mount, by whom he has one son, Turner Westray Battle. Judge Battle's religious affiliations are with the Episcopal Church, and he has been for many years senior warden of the Church of the Good Shepherd of this city.



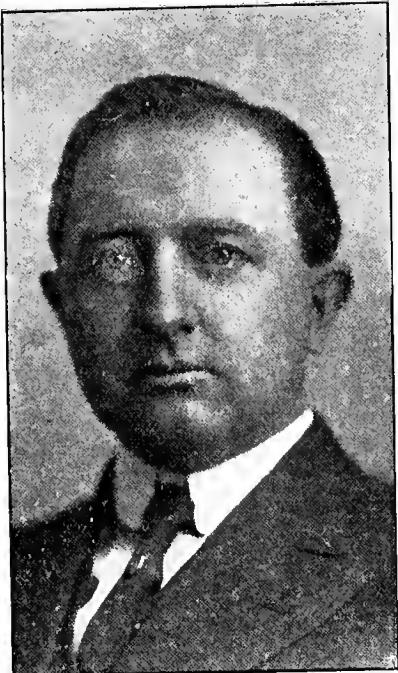
HON. JACOB BATTLE.

BUNN & SPRUILL

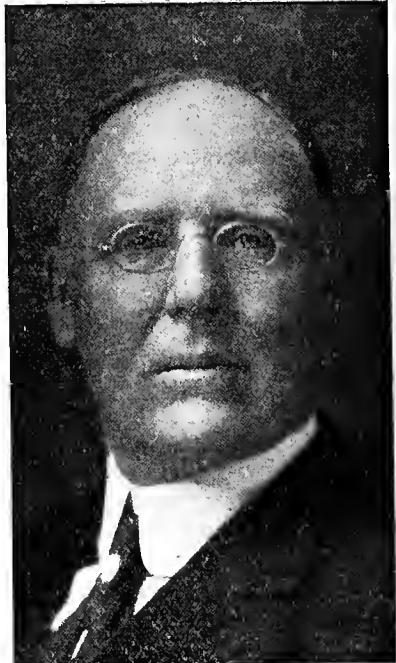
One Of The Strongest Law Firms In North Carolina.

The Rocky Mount Bar has long been regarded as one of the ablest in North Carolina, including as it has for many years, lawyers of State wide reputation, whom the people have honored time and again with positions of great trust.

One of the strongest law firms of Rocky Mount, and indeed in the whole State, is that of Bunn & Spruill, now composed of Messrs. Frank S. Spruill and James P. Bunn. Mr. Spruill ranks high among the most eminent of the North Carolina legal fraternity, and Mr. Bunn, while a much younger man, both in years and practice, has already won an enviable position among the really able lawyers of Eastern Carolina. The firm has perhaps the largest and most lucrative practice of any law firm in this section of the State, and is retained by people in every walk of life, from the largest corporations to the humblest negro who has a meritorious cause. Mr. Spruill is Division Counsel, and has been for



MR. JAS. P. BUNN.



MR. FRANK S. SPRUILL.

several years, of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, and takes prominent rank among the ablest of the attorneys of that large corporation. Mr. Bunn is the local Attorney for the same railroad, and handles their local legal work with eminent satisfaction and ability.

MR. JAMES P. BUNN

Mr. Bunn is the third child of the late Honorable Benjamin H. Bunn, who was for three terms a member of the United States Congress from the Fourth North Carolina District, and for a score of years the beloved and trusted leader of the Nash County Democracy. It is enough to say that the son is worthy of the father, Mr. J. P. Bunn inheriting much of the strong personality, great ability and legal grasp that were characteristic of Mr. Bunn the elder. Mr. Bunn's mother was, before marriage, Miss Harriet A. Philips of the family of that name, long prominent in this section of the State. He was educated in the old Rocky Mount graded schools, a private school in Battleboro, and graduated at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, taking his B. S. Degree in the Class of 1899. He afterwards studied law at the same institution and was licensed to practice by the Supreme Court of North Carolina in Feb. 1902. At that time his father was in partnership with Hon. F. S. Spruill, under the firm name of Bunn & Spruill, the latter living at Louisburg, and the partnership existing for the practice of law in the Nash Superior Courts. Young Mr. Bunn was received into this partnership, the firm name being changed to Bunn, Spruill & Bunn. The practice of the firm as a whole was for cases in the Nash Superior Court, and for other practice the firm was composed of father and son as Bunn & Bunn. On the death of Honorable B. H. Bunn, Aug. 25, 1907, a co-partnership was formed between Honorable F. S. Spruill and J. P. Bunn, under the name of Bunn & Spruill, the firm name already established and well known. Mr. Spruill gave up one of the most lucrative practices in North Carolina at Louisburg to move to Rocky Mount, January 1st, 1908. The practice of Bunn & Bunn had been one of the largest and most extensive in the State, and with the addition of Mr. Spruill the firm was enabled to retain the large practice that had been enjoyed by the firm before the death of the elder Mr. Bunn. Since that time the practice and influence of this firm has been constantly increasing, keeping full pace with the tremendous growth of Rocky Mount during the same period.

Mr. J. P. Bunn since his early boyhood has been very active politically and has been and is one of the most influential leaders of the Nash County Democracy. He seems to have inherited much of his lamented father's tact and ability in the leadership of men, and also much of his unparalleled popularity with the Democrats of Nash County. During three campaigns he was Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of Nash, in each instance waging an aggressive and masterly campaign, resulting in sweeping Democratic victory. He resigned the Chairmanship in 1910 on account of the pressure of private and professional business.

Mr. Bunn was married July 26, 1906, to Miss Ella Lee Moorman, of Bristol, Tenn. They have one child, Miss Mary Jameson, and reside in one of the prettiest and most commodious residences in Rocky Mount, beautifully situated in the choice residential district on the Falls Road in the Northern part of the city.

HON. F. S. SPRUILL.

Honorable Frank Shepherd Spruill, Division Counsel for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company and a member of the firm of Bunn & Spruill, is not only one of the ablest lawyers at the North Carolina Bar but is one of the very strong public men of the State. He was born in Martin County, North Carolina, December 9th, 1862, and is the third child of William E. Spruill and Harriet Arrington, blending Scotch-Irish on the paternal side with English on the maternal. During the Civil War his father, who was in the Confederate service, moved his family from the exposed territory in Martin County, frequently the scene of Federal raids, to a safer location in Halifax County. Here Mr. Spruill grew to manhood under the typical influences of Southern plantation life, and in the sports and vigorous occupations incident to life in the country, developed an alert and forceful intellect in a sound and healthy body.

Endowed with a strong and logical mind and gifted with unusual oratorical power he naturally selected the law as his profession and entered on its study at the University of North Carolina. He obtained his license in February 1884 and located at Henderson, associating himself for the practice with William H. Young, Esq. After a year in Henderson he removed to Louisburg, Franklin County, where he formed a partnership with Honorable Joseph J. Davis, afterwards a Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court and a former Congressman. From the beginning in Louisburg Mr. Spruill enjoyed a large and extensive practice and took high rank at the bar. Being deeply interested in all public matters affecting the interest of his County and State, and with his splendid ability, it is not to be wondered at that Mr. Spruill soon became one of the Democratic leaders of his county and section, participating actively and zealously in every political campaign. His unusual power as an orator and political campaigner early attracted the attention of the party all over the State, and his services came to be constantly in demand by the Democratic State Executive Committee. In 1888 he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention which nominated Grover Cleveland for the Presidency for a second term, and in the campaign of that year, Mr. Spruill was one of the most effective speakers of the campaign in North Carolina. In 1898 he represented Franklin County in the Legislature, being one of the ablest and most influential members of that body, and rendering conspicuous services on the Judiciary Committee, on the floor of the House, and as Chairman of the Committee on Railroads and Railroad Commissioners. Soon after, he was appointed by Governor Carr a Director of the State Prison, but soon resigned, the work being uncongenial, and he later accepted an

appointment as Director of the North Carolina Railroad, rendering very valuable opposition to the proposed new lease for 99 years of that railroad to the South. During Mr. Cleveland's second term as President, Mr. Spruill filled with admirable ability, the office of District Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina. In 1904 the Democracy again nominated Mr. Spruill for the House of Representatives, which nomination he was confirmed. His nomination soon thereafter as one of the Presidential Electors for the State at large, brought him into the Democratic State Convention. In the campaign of 1904 the speeches of Mr. Spruill were widely commented on as being among the very ablest delivered in Mr. Parker's behalf in the entire South, his beautiful diction, unanswerable logic and the force of his strong personality carrying conviction to his large audiences and doing much to bring out the great Democratic majority in North Carolina in that eventful campaign when the Democracy in other States went to pieces, and Mr. Roosevelt rolled up his unparalleled majority in the nation.

Though one of the great individual political forces in North Carolina, it is in his chosen profession as a lawyer that Mr. Spruill has attained his highest eminence and his most enduring fame. Careful and painstaking in the preparation of his cases, tireless in energy, powerful as an advocate, and with the deepest loyalty to the interest of his clients, he embodies the most effective forces and represents the highest traditions of his ancient and honorable profession. Being a graduate of the University of North Carolina, he has ever felt the greatest interest in his Alma Mater, rendering both as trustee for a long period and otherwise every tribute and service at his command to that noble institution.

Mr. Spruill removed to Rocky Mount January 1st, 1908, having been appointed Division Counsel of the great Atlantic Coast Line Railroad system. No citizen of Rocky Mount is held in higher esteem and respect and as a member of the strong law firm of Bunn & Spruill he enjoys an expensive and lucrative law practice, such as has been won by few lawyers in the State. Messrs. Bunn & Spruill are, besides their railroad connection, attorneys for the Planters Bank of Rocky Mount, county attorneys for Nash County, and attorneys for a number of others of the strongest corporations of this part of the State, besides possessing a wide practice among people of every class.

Mr. Spruill was happily married in 1883 to Miss Alice Capehart Winston, daughter of Hon. Patrick Henry Winston and Martha Elizabeth Byrd, and sister of Ex-Judge and ex-Lieut. Gov. Francis D. Winston, Judge Robert W. Winston, Patrick Henry Winston, Jr., (Ex-Attorney General of the State of Washington) and George Taylor Winston, B. Litt. A. M., L. L. D., Ex-Pres. Univ. of North Carolina, Ex-President of the North Carolina A. & M. College, and of the University of Texas, four of the ablest and most brilliant men North Carolina has ever produced. Mrs. Spruill is herself one of the loveliest and most gifted of North Carolina's fair daughters, and it is no doubt to her intelligence and

athetic
his profession.
this section of t.
Mrs. Spruill pre.
Mrs. Thomas Alexan

owes much of the large measure of fame and success that he has attained in
private life. The Spruill residence on Falls Road is one of the handsomest in
every convenience, comfort and arrangement that form an ideal home. Here
is the charm and grace of the old regime. Mr. and Mrs. Spruill have three children,
Elle, Miss Martha Byrd Spruill and Frank Shepherd Spruill, Jr.

HON. BENJAMIN H. BUNN.

IN MEMORIAM.

Nash County's Ablest And Best-Beloved Son.

There has probably never lived in Nash County, any other man so universally beloved by the people, or so widely trusted and influential, as the late Hon. Benjamin Hickman Bunn, for three terms a member of the U. S. Congress, and who was for a quarter of a century before his death, the undisputed leader of the militant Democracy of the county. Mr. Bunn was born in Nash county October 19, 1844, and was a son of Redmun and Mary Hickman (Bryan) Bunn. Mr. Redmun Bunn was long one of the most prominent merchants and planters of the county, and gave to his mother state three gallant and gifted sons, (including the subject of this article) two of whom offered up their lives in battle for their native South during the Civil War. One of the brothers, Mr. William H. Bunn was killed while gallantly leading a cavalry charge at Burgess' Mill in 1864, and the other, Elias, fell at Hanover Court House in 1862. The mother of Redmun Bunn, after the death of his father, was married to William Dortch, and of this union was born several children, who attained distinction, among them being Hon. William T. Dortch, who represented North Carolina in the Confederate States Senate, and Isaac F. Dortch, who became one of the leading physicians of Alabama. Benjamin Bunn, the great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch came to North Carolina from Virginia soon after the Revolutionary War. The family is of distinguished and noble English extraction, a member of the English branch of the family, Hon. William H. Bunn, having during recent years held the exalted post of Queen's Counsel.

Hon. Benjamin H. Bunn, our subject, had just completed his college preparatory course at the outbreak of the

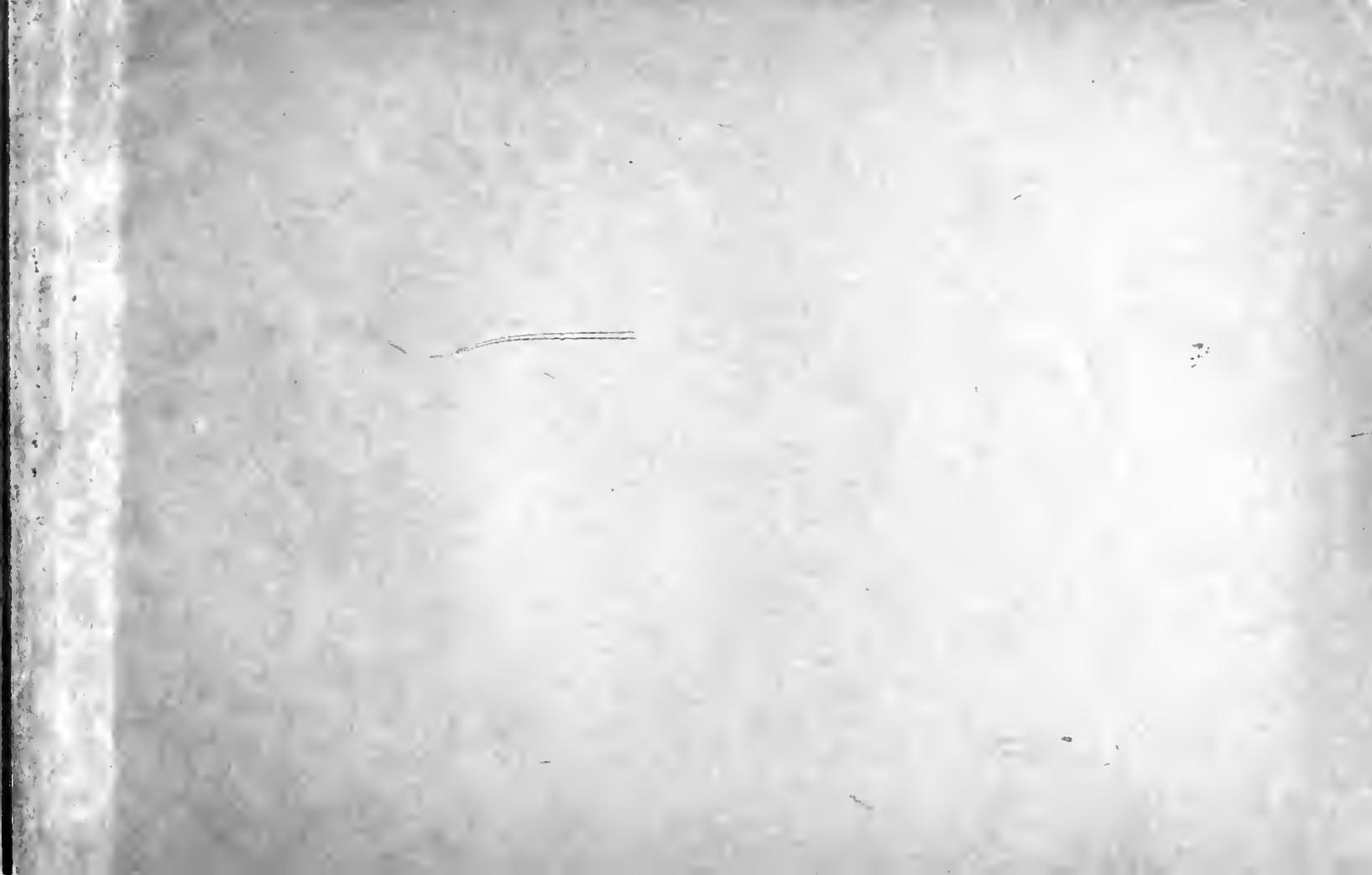
War between the States, and at once gave up his studies and enlisted at the age of seventeen in Co. I, Thirtieth N. C. Infantry, under Capt. Arrington. Throughout the entire war he fought gallantly, and young as he was, he attained the rank of First Lieutenant, conferred for conspicuous gallantry on several occasions. At the close of the war, he studied law under his uncle, William T. Dortch, and Judge Geo. V. Storey, of Goldsboro, and received his county court license in June 1866, and his superior court license a year later. He then located permanently at Rocky Mount for the practice of his profession. As a lawyer, Mr. Bunn at once took high rank, and during the years that followed built a reputation as one of the very strongest men at the Carolina bar. As an advocate, North Carolina has possibly never known his superior. Almost every man in the county was personally known to him, and gave him full confidence. His practice when he died was one of the largest, most representative and most lucrative in North Carolina. Eloquent in voice, commanding in presence and personality, and admirably grounded and learned in the law, he was the ideal lawyer and political leader. He first entered the political arena as elector on the Seymour-Blair ticket in 1868, and in 1875 was a member of the Constitutional Convention that framed the present Constitution of North Carolina. In 1882, he was a member of the legislature and was Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Code, an almost unprecedented honor to be conferred on a member of the lower house. In 1884, he was elector for the Fourth North Carolina District for the national ticket of Cleveland and Hendricks, and was chosen as the messenger to convey the vote of North Carolina to the United States Senate at Washington. Four years before, in 1880, he was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention, which nominated General Hancock for the Presidency. In 1886, Mr. Bunn was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Congress and led the convention for 212 ballots, Hon. John M. Graham finally receiving the nomination on the 213th ballot. In the election following, Mr. Graham was defeated by Nichols, Republican, by 1,500 majority. Two years later, however, the Democrats of the District gave Mr. Bunn an unanimous nomination for Congress, and in the campaign and election that followed, he redeemed the district and was elected by the handsome majority of 2,600 votes. Two years later, in 1890, so well and faithfully had he served his district, that he was re-elected by 6,500 majority, and was a third time elected by a handsome majority in 1892. In 1894, the year of the disgraceful fusion victory, Mr. Bunn was not a candidate for re-election, retiring to give his entire time and attention to his large and profitable law practice. While in Congress, Mr. Bunn was a distinguished figure, and ranked among the strongest of the members of the great Democratic congressional majorities of those halcyon years. Some of his speeches in Congress were so notably able and wise that they were distributed broadcast all over the country as campaign literature by the Democratic National Committee.

Mr. Bunn was happily married November 7th, 1871, to Miss Harriet A. Philips, a lady of much culture and

refinement, and a daughter of Dr. James J. Philips, for many years one of the leading physicians of the state. Two of her brothers were Ex-Judge Fred Philips and Hon. Joseph B. Philips, among North Carolina's most gifted sons.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bunn, as follows: Miss Mary (now Mrs. Dr. G. L. Wimberly), Miss Hattie, Miss Bessie, Miss Annie Lee (now Mrs. R. B. Davis Jr.,) Mr. Benj. H. Bunn Jr., Miss Laura Maude, Miss Catherine, Mr. Redman Bunn (deceased), and Mr. James P. Bunn, now one of the ablest practitioners of the Rocky Mount bar, and one of the influential and strong political leaders of Nash County and this section.

Mr. Bunn died August 25th, 1907, as universally mourned by the entire citizenship of this city and county, and indeed of all this section of the state, as any man who has ever lived within its borders. During the last years of his life, he devoted his entire time to his loved profession in which he had won such commanding eminence, and was the senior member of the noted law firm of Bunn, Spruill & Bunn, in which Honorable F. S. Spruill and Mr. James P. Bunn were his partners.



John C. Mull
Huntington

Ridgefield Park

July 1st & 2nd 1946

—



N

A very faint, thin, horizontal line that is slightly curved upwards at the right end. It appears to be a scan of a handwritten mark or a small piece of debris.

